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Hafa Adai!

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75¢

Report: China's presence in the Pacific may erode US influence

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

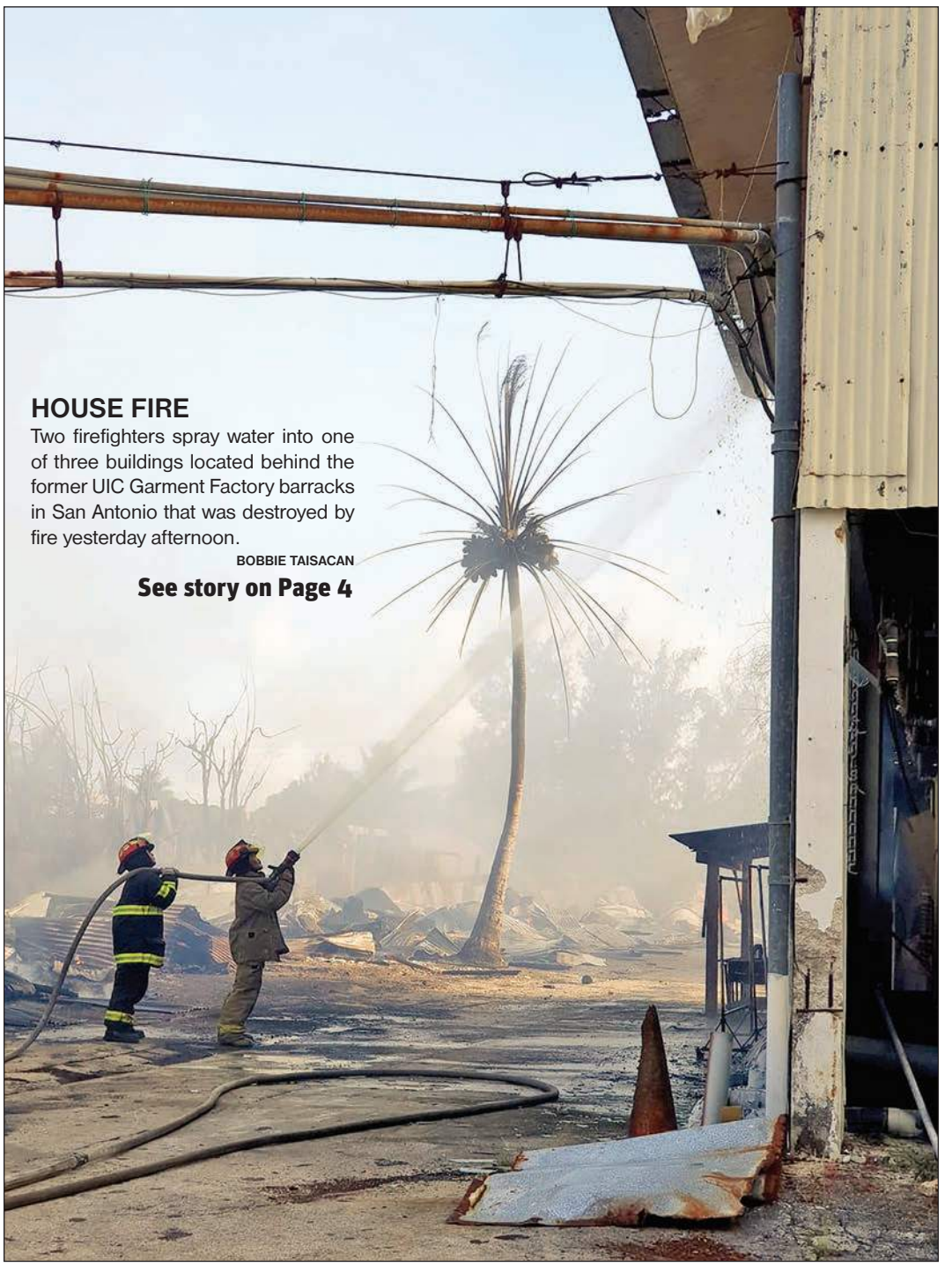
Chinese presence in the Pacific may adversely affect U.S. influence in the region, according to a commission tasked with reviewing the U.S.-Chinese economic and security relations.

» Chinese economic devt in NMI also a concern

In a report dated June 14, 2018, the U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission, or USCESRC, stated that Chinese presence in the Pacific region may be concerning for U.S. defense interests.

The report cited testimony by then-Pacific

See CHINA on Page 4



HOUSE FIRE
Two firefighters spray water into one of three buildings located behind the former UIC Garment Factory barracks in San Antonio that was destroyed by fire yesterday afternoon.
BOBBIE TAISACAN

See story on Page 4

Heinz throws hat in Senate race

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Hofschneider

Former House Speaker Heinz S. Hofschneider formally announced his candidacy last night for one of the two Senate seats up for grabs in the general election on Nov. 6.

He is running as an independent bet, aligned with former governor Juan N. Babauta and Dr. Rita A. Sablan.

Hofschneider—who was House speaker during the 13th CNMI Legislature—made the announcement yesterday in front of his family, friends, and

See HEINZ on Page 4

Up in arms over ban vs cockfighting

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

Several local lawmakers have expressed concern over the U.S. House of Representatives' support of a bill that would ban cockfighting in U.S. territories, with one believing it to be a violation of the Covenant, which created the U.S-CNMI political relationship.

The U.S. House voted last Thursday in support of the 2018 Farm Bill, which has a provision

See BAN on Page 4

Palacios allegedly owes DPL

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Senate President Arnold Palacios (R-Saipan) is being accused of owing the Department of Public Lands over $190,000, yet alleg-

» Palacios says personal land lease dispute being used for political gamemanship

edly continues to hold on to the lease of parcels of public land in Lower Base.

Palacios refuted this yesterday, saying that DPL and its legal counsel have recently agreed that the amount he allegedly owes is erroneous.

See PALACIOS on Page 4

INSIDE

LOCAL
Amy Hudkins is making a name for herself as one of Walt Disney's cartoon artists.

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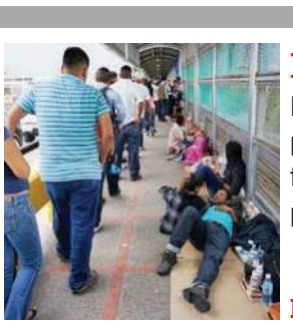

NATION
Reunification prospects unclear for freed immigrant parents.

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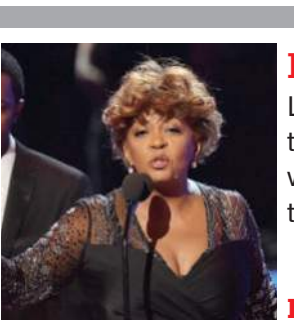

LIFE & STYLE
Legendary singer Anita Baker is honored with a lifetime award at the BET Awards.

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Local

United resumes Narita-Guam flights

TAMUNING, Guam—Responding to the rising demand for business and leisure travel between Guam and Japan, United Airlines announced yesterday it is resuming its twice-daily Boeing 777 service between Guam and Japan beginning Oct. 28, 2018, through March 30, 2019.

The use of larger aircraft increases the number of seats offered between the two countries by 80 percent, compared to the previously scheduled smaller aircraft.

» **80-percent increase in number of seats offered**

Beginning Oct. 28, United will resume operating Boeing 777-200 aircraft on two of its three daily flights between Guam and Tokyo's Narita International Airport.

The return of United's widebody aircraft offers customers nearly 900 daily seats each way between Tokyo and Guam.

"Guam and Tokyo are important cities for United Airlines and we remain committed to supporting our customers and employees in these regions," said Patrick Quayle, United's vice president of International Network. "In the last few months, we have noticed the market begin to recover and, in response, we made the decision to resume widebody service between Guam and Tokyo to meet this rising demand."

Sam Shinohara, United's managing director of Asia/Pacific Airport Operations said, "We are pleased to welcome back the B777s to the Guam-Tokyo route. This is a direct reflection of the increase in demand for travel to Guam and our valuable relationships with many business partners such as the Guam Visitors Bureau and major travel agency partners in Japan. The more than 60,000 additional seats not only help meet the inbound demand from Japan, but also offer our Guam customers with more options when traveling to Tokyo, the mainland U.S. and beyond."

Additionally, in response to the increased demand from those traveling out of Japan to Guam for the 2018 summer peak season, United plans to operate 20 additional flights beginning Aug. 2 through Aug. 27, 2018—13 from Tokyo/Narita and seven from Nagoya's Chubu Centrair International Airport.

United Airlines and United Express operate approximately 4,600 flights a day to 354 airports across five continents. ***(United)***

NMTI AWARDEES JON PEREZ

Awards recipients join Northern Marianas Trades Institute officials for a group photo in last Friday's night's NMTI Denim & Diamonds Gala at the Hibiscus Hall of the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.

Madolenihmw king honors Torres

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

The *nanmwarki* (King) of Madolenihmw in Pohnpei bestowed a traditional title on Gov. Ralph DLG Torres during a traditional *sakau* ceremony last Sunday.

Torres was bestowed a lordship status and was given the Pohnpeian name Luahk during the traditional *sakau* ceremony at the Garapan Central Park.

The *nanmwarki* of Madolenihmw, Kerbet Hebel, also gave first lady Diann Torres the Pohnpeian name Luahkpei.

Along with the title was a spot in the *nanmwarki*'s royal family. That means the Torres couple will now be considered an extension of the royal Madolenihmw family.

To officiate his position in Hebel's royal family, Torres was asked to drink the traditionally prepared *sakau* beverage that was the highlight of the ceremony.

The *sakau* ceremony is a traditional ceremony in Pohnpei to honor the presence of the high chiefs while also bringing together everyone.

The ceremony was organized by the Pohnpeian community in honour of Hebel and his wife, who are on island to attend the Pacific Islands Bilingual and Bicultural Association conference.

The *sakau* ceremony started with the traditional slaughtering of a pig that was then cooked in the traditional *uhm*. The enormous pig was slaughtered in the traditional Pohnpeian way as part of the ceremony and parts of the semi-cooked meat was then offered to Hebel and Torres as a gift.

The rest of the pig was then dispersed among the other members of the royal family and the rest as part of the tradition for everyone to take home and cook as they please.

The highlight of the ceremony was the traditional pounding and preparation of the *sakau*, a traditional beverage

Sakau, more popularly known as *kava*, is a powerful drink that represents peace among Pohnpeians. The *sakau* root was pounded with special stones to extract the sap of the root, which is later mixed with a bit of water to create a concentrated beverage.

After the *sakau* was offered to the royal family, it was later offered to CNMI dignitaries like Lt. Gov Victor B. Hocog, Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang, and others.

Civic Center court undergoes repairs

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

The Civic Center basketball court began undergoing repairs yesterday.

House Speaker Rafael Demapan announced the basketball (R-Saipan) court's renovation in a statement dated June 25. It is being done as a community project in partnership with Rep. John Paul Sablan (R-Saipan).

Demapan noted that the fence around the court would be replaced; the concrete bleachers repaired; bleacher sheltering installed; and LED lights installed.

According to him, funding for the renovation originated from the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation, which Sablan chairs. He noted that the project would take a "few months" to complete.

The Civic Center basketball court acts as venue for several sporting events such as the Civic Center inter-color basketball league as well as venues for other activities such as the 2018 Flame Tree Arts Festival hosted by the Department of Cultural and Community Affairs.

"Thank you for your patience and understanding as we complete this project and thank you also for your continued support and contribution in maintaining the upkeep and cleanliness of the area in order for our residents, children, and visitors to enjoy," said Demapan in a public service announcement.

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Haze from Mount Kilauea reaches Marianas anew

Volcanic haze produced by Mount Kilauea in Hawaii has reached the Marianas again and is expected to linger across the area for much of the week, according to the latest advisory from the National Weather Service in Guam.

According to NWS, the haze will decrease at times due to showers periodically developing between the Marianas and Hawaii, but easterly trades will continue to funnel the channel of haze toward the Marianas that will reduce visibility across the region.

"While this haze is not expected to cause widespread health problems, if you have a respiratory health issue you should limit outdoor activities until the haze reduces or dissipates," according to the advisory.

Listen for any additional advisories from local health agencies or the NWS.

Unless the haze density significantly increases, NWS said this will be the only statement issued for this haze episode. Kilauea remains quite active and will continue to produce haze that will affect the region at times during the coming weeks or months. NWS statements will be issued as needed. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

Crowded Nov. race on Rota

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

» 7 running for senators, 5 battling for mayor

It's a crowded race on Rota this Nov. 6. Seven are running for two positions at the Senate, five are battling for a mayoral seat, and three will be duking it out for a lone House post.

Of the 15 candidates, 11 are independents and four are Republicans, *Saipan Tribune* learned from sources on Rota.

The number, however, may still increase as there is still enough time to file candidacies. July 9 is the first day to submit nominations and candidacies. The deadline for submission is Aug. 8.

For the Senate, Lt. Gov. Victor Hocog and former Rota Department of Public Safety resident director Felix M. Santos are running as Republicans, while Sen. Teresita A. Santos (R-Rota) is seeking re-election as an independent candidate.

The four other independent candidates are science teacher Edward C. Maratita Jr., former Commonwealth Utilities Corp. board member Albert Taitano, retired police officer Joel Charfauros, and former senator Jovita Taimanao.

For the House, floor leader Glenn L. Maratita (R-Rota) is seeking re-election. The challengers are Thomas Atalig and Donald Manglona, who are both independents.

For mayor, Efraim Atalig is seeking a second term. Senate Vice President Steve Mesngon (R-Rota) and three other independents—CNMI Women's Association treasurer Julie Manglona, former Rota Health Center resident director Crispin M. Ayuyu, and former Rota DPS resident director Richard E. Taisacan—are gunning for the mayoral position, too.

Santos welcomes the large number of candidates on Rota, saying this only means that the democratic process in alive and well on Rota—people have the right to choose representatives, who, in turn make policy decisions on their behalf.

Santos said that having candidates for the people to choose from is a fundamental principle. "Voters need to have a free and informed choice to determine who will best represent them," she said.

One of Santos' priorities is the island's air and water transportation service.

"When our transport systems are efficient, they will provide economic and social opportunities and benefits that will result in a positive multiplier effect," she said.

The senator said she will also seek ways to enhance the island's economy to include human capital and physical capital.

Power and water interruptions

There will be a scheduled power interruption on June 28 and June 30 and a water service interruption on June 28.

The power outage on Thursday, June 28, will occur from 9am to 1pm at the Wireless Ridge. It will affect Chanal Savana. No water well or wastewater lift station will be affected. Two power poles will be replaced.

On Saturday, June 30, the power outage from 5am to 10am will occur in Puerto Rico, affecting Sadog Tasi and first partial of Puerto Rico. The Sadog Tasi Treatment Plant will be affected but not water wells. Four power poles will be replaced.

The purpose of these power interruptions is to de-energize utility lines and allow CUC linemen the ability to replace deteriorated wooden poles with new wooden poles or with concrete poles at certain areas of the power grid. This is a continuation of CUC's ongoing hazard mitigation project that focuses on strengthening and hardening CUC's power distribution system through the replacement of 787 wooden poles with concrete poles. Of the 787 wooden poles to be replaced, 744 replacements have been made by CUC and its contractor.

There will be a scheduled water service interruption on Thursday, June 28, from 8am to 5pm affecting CUC's water customers in As Terlaje, Beach Road, Chalan Pale Arnold, Gualo Rai, Kannat Tabla, Chalan Kiya, Rasmu Lane (El Toro), Chalan Tun Antonio Apa, and west side areas of As Lito (Faha Place, Bayak Drive and Aplok Drive).

CUC's contractor, AIC Marianas, Inc., will be cutting and capping the existing 14-inch transmission line connection to the Kannat Tabla tank and replacing the existing 8-inch valve along the intersection of Kannat Tabla and Chalan Monsignor Guerrero Road fronting Mechille Corp. As a result of the new installation, a more reliable water system will be provided to the community. Regular water service hours will resume thereafter.

This is an ongoing project funded by the U.S. Protection Agency to replace the water tank at the Northern Marianas College.

Because of the scale of work that will be performed, CUC asks travelers to take alternate routes or to exercise caution when driving through the working area.

For more information, contact the CUC Customer Call Center (664-4282) or monitor our Facebook page for the latest updates (https://www.facebook.corn/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation/). ***(Saipan Tribune)***

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Fire engulfs 3 buildings in San Antonio

A fire of still unknown cause engulfed three buildings in the back of the former UIC Garment Factory barracks in San Antonio yesterday afternoon. No one was reported injured in the blaze.

Initial investigation showed that the fire started in a nearby abandoned building, according to Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services acting spokesperson Bobbie Taisacan

Taisacan said they received a call from the Department of Public Safety's 911 about the fire at 4:40pm.

DFEMS firefighters, assisted by members of the Commonwealth Ports Authority Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting, placed the blaze under control at 5:40pm.

As of 8:15pm, firefighters were still at the scene, mopping up patches of fire.

Taisacan said investigation is ongoing and that more details will be provided either Monday late at night or today, Tuesday. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

HEINZ

From Page 1

supporters of the Babauta-Sablan ticket at the former governor's house in Gualo Rai.

He also urged his fellow independent candidates who are also running in different positions in the election to unite and form one coalition.

Babauta added it was a phenomenon that a lot of people in the community want to get involved as independent candidates.

Hofschneider said that returning to the Legislature was the common message that most people have asked him to do since coming back to Saipan in April. "I was away to take care of my brother in the last two years. Now he's in a better place."

"But for the last three months, since coming back to Saipan, I listened to a lot of people on what was life about. There's one common message, 'Heinz, you should go back to the Legislature.'"

"'Haven't you had enough of me, for 16 years?' was my answer to them. But they said that they need someone to represent our people," added Hofschneider, who lamented that leadership in the CNMI has deteriorated in the last few years.

He said that he decided to come out of retirement after talking to a number of people in the community.

BAN

From Page 1

to ban "animal fighting," Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) told *Saipan Tribune*.

The provision, according to Sablan, would override local laws that legalizes and regulates cockfighting. Sablan noted that federal law already bans interstate shipment of "fighting animals" and "animal fighting" in all 50 states except for the U.S. territories.

"…Whether cockfighting should continue in the Marianas should remain a matter for local officials to decide," Sablan said in a statement. "If Commonwealth officials decide to ban cockfighting in the Marianas, I would have no problem with that. But I have an issue with [U.S.] Congress enacting legislation overriding a Commonwealth law without input from Northern Marianas citizens and officials."

This was echoed in a prior statement by Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo (D-GU), who said Guam and the other U.S. territories have already enacted own local laws to regulate cockfighting, "and Congress should not force this ban on our jurisdictions."

"I stand with my colleagues from the territories in opposing this amendment and speaking out against Congress' attempt to outlaw this culturally significant practice. None of the territories' representative to Congress were given an opportunity to provide input on this amendment, and it is not right for Congress to dictate this matter on our constituents when we are denied an opportunity vote against it on the House floor," said Bordallo.

The Farm Bill provision reportedly did not seek prior comments from citizens of the U.S. territories, prompting Sablan to join the delegates of Guam, U.S. Virgin Islands, American Samoa, and Puerto Rico to oppose the provision.

Sen. Teresita A. Santos (R-Rota) believes that Congress overriding a local law without first seeking local input might be in violation of the Covenant.

"[The legalization of cockfighting] is local in domain. We should have the right to decide on those issues instead of the federal government taking away a culture that has been embedded in us," Santos said. "[The federal government] is overstepping on legislation that is local in nature."

House Speaker Rafael S. Demapan (R-Saipan) believes it is "naïve and disrespectful" to think of cockfighting in the NMI as a "pastime entertainment or sport."

"Cockfighting and raising of game fowl have been a part of our culture and history…for many generations," Demapan told *Saipan Tribune*. "…It is, in fact, some of the few local practices still passed down by our elders that is still [being practiced], even by our youth."

Demapan added that the practice helps further preserve the CNMI culture.

"…Having U.S. Congress propose to singlehandedly ban a part of our culture that we actively still practice today without understanding its value to our way of life and without consultation…is concerning," said Demapan, adding that policies pertaining to cockfighting should lie "within the prerogative of each territory and state and not by the U.S. Congress or federal government."

Senate President Arnold I. Palacios (R-Saipan) believes that the NMI should be exempted from the provision, given how important cockfighting is to the local culture.

"The territories have had [cockfighting] for centuries. I am hoping that [Bordallo] and even Sablan [and other delegates of the territories] are trying to take that [provision] out," he said.

The 2018 Farm Bill now heads to the U.S. Senate for review.

PALACIOS

From Page 1

"A revised amount has been produced that, while significantly lower, I still believe is in error," said Palacios, adding that the dispute continues and that he is engaged in mediation with DPL about the amount.

The Senate president said he has considered and may employ a lawyer to review this matter to ensure that the amount in dispute is correct.

"It is unfortunate that such a mundane matter as a dispute of a personal land lease would be used for political gamesmanship," Palacios said.

The allegation was raised by Jack Muña, who told *Saipan Tribune* over the weekend that Palacios is leasing three parcels of public land and sub-leasing it to a private business, thereby earning thousands of dollars from the sub-lease rental of $4,500 per month.

Muña reportedly obtained documents that he acquired from DPL through Open Government Act to back his claim. He said he provided copies of the documents to the Office of the Attorney General and the Office of Public Auditor for investigation.

Muña said Palacios himself would benefit from Senate Bill 20-35 that Palacios authored to extend public land lease terms from 40 years by an additional 15 years, for a total of 55 years.

The bill is pending in the Senate.

"I call this self-enrichment from public land and Palacios should withdraw his bill in order to have a clear and transparent bill," Muña said.

He alleged that Palacios did not pay DPL over two and a half years—from Dec. 1, 1990, to June 30, 1992—amassing over $7,000 in arrears owed DPL.

Yet, Muña said, DPL still allowed Palacios to continue holding the public land lease.

He said Palacios finally made the first payment to DPL of $5,478 on July 30, 1992.

He believes that DPL gave Palacios special treatment. "This is totally wrong and DPL should be clear and transparent on their dealings with public land lease to everyone," he added.

Muña said the public land lease should have been terminated a long time ago, but it looks like "transparency is no longer in the eyes of DPL nor the Legislature."

Muña said that rumors had abounded about Palacios making substantial amount by sub-leasing the land to a business friend.

He alleged that it began on Dec. 14, 1990, when Palacios signed a lease agreement for public land in Lower Base containing 2,813 square meters, with the defunct Marianas Public Land Corp.

Muña said the lease is for 25 years and there will be 15 years of extension, with the Legislature's approval.

Muna said that on Oct. 31, 2014, a second amendment to the lease agreement was signed by then DPL secretary Pedro A. Tenorio, then attorney general Gilbert Birnbrich, and Palacios.

He said this amendment also changed the lessee from Palacios to A&M Corp.

He said A&M Corp. was given two additional lots for a total of three public land leases containing 6,573 square meters.

Muña said that on March 2, 2016, A&M Corp. subleased the three parcels of land to South Pacific Lumber Corp. for three years commencing on April 1, 2016.

Muña said the rental fee was paid to A&M Corp., $4,500 as security deposit and $4,500 for monthly rental. He said the sublease was signed by Maria S. Palacios, A&M Corp., and Jimmy C. Whang.

Muña cited that that for the first five-year period alone, Palacios' lease rental was $143 per month, but his sublease rental to Maria S. Palacios is $4,500 per month.

Muña said in his opinion, there is a conflict of interest when Palacios introduced Senate Bill 20-35.

When asked about the matter yesterday, Palacios briefly discussed the background of the land lease that began in 1988.

Palacios said that in 2013 he contacted DPL to discuss the possibility of a lease extension, when he was informed that there was an accrued balance left to be paid prior to an extension.

Palacios said he was very surprised, disagreed with that determination and followed the regulatory procedures to dispute this claim.

He said he wrote to DPL in 2015 to again state his disagreement and appeal that decision, which he believes was in error.

Palacios emphasized that the issue stems from a land lease dating back years before he became an elected official.

Palacios was elected to the House of Representatives in 2001.

He said he is not conflicted when he introduced Senate Bill 20-35.

He said the bill addresses public land leases with an existing hotel or golf course.

Palacios said the bill's intent is to generate stable economic interest so that more job opportunities will be provided for those of Northern Marianas descent and residents, while also stimulating economic activity across the board from local small business entrepreneurship to newer industries to diversify the economy.

CHINA

From Page 1

Command commander Adm. Harry Harris in an April 2017 congressional hearing that American agreements with the Compact countries—the Federated States of Micronesia, the Marshall Islands, and Palau—also included assured access to the countries in a contingency situation.

"They also give the U.S. authority to grant or deny access to another nation's military forces, which allows the U.S. to maintain a clear strategic line of communication across the Pacific," said Harris, according to the commission report.

The report cited analysts who have raised concerns that China could "erode U.S. influence" in the Compact countries and the CNMI, which would have implications for U.S. military access in the region.

The report quoted Dean Cheng, a senior research fellow at the Heritage Foundation, who believes that if China is to establish a long-term political foothold on the region, it could "persuade these states not to extend access to the U.S., as well as arrange for Chinese access," the report quoted him as saying.

He reportedly noted that "Chinese access" does not necessarily mean bases, but rather surveillance and reconnaissance sites to monitor U.S. military facility and testing site activities.

The USCESRC was created by Congress to monitor and report on economic and national security concerns between the U.S. and China. This includes the monitoring of security and economic ties between the two nations.

Chinese economic development in NMI concerning

The Chinese economic development in the NMI also remains a concern for the commission, especially when the U.S. Department of Defense is seeking to redeploy 4,100 troops from Okinawa to Guam.

The U.S. is also reportedly planning to use Guam for training and military exercises and was noted to "likely be called upon" for contingencies in Asia.

"The rapid growth in Chinese investment and influx of Chinese tourists—bringing record economic growth to the CNMI—is also fueling opposition to DOD plans by business executives, local politicians, and residents," the report noted.

"If Chinese activities deter the United States from carrying out its plans for the CNMI, it will contribute to China's goal of weakening U.S. military presence in the Indo-Pacific," it added.

Retired Lt. Gen. Wallace "Chip" Gregson, the former commander of the U.S. Marine Corps Forces-Pacific, was quoted by the report as saying that he believes China is seeking to control access and limit U.S. military presence through "influence operations based on suspect casino operations."

"Energetic involvement by our law enforcement and financial agencies is needed to ensure these U.S. territories are not ripped away," he reportedly said.

The report noted that a "potential Chinese military base or facility in the Pacific Islands could have implications for U.S. military presence and training in the Indo-Pacific."

"Such development could expand China's monitoring and surveillance capabilities in the region, helping Beijing mitigate U.S. military presence in the region. It could also present access challenges for Australia and New Zealand, key U.S. partners in the Pacific Islands region," the report added.

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STK#U17-096P
WAS $34,999
NOW $21,999*

2017 RAV4 LE
4-cyl, Auto, FWD, Bronze,
STK#U18-045R
NOW $21,999*

2013 4Runner SR5
4WD, V-6, Auto, Red, STK#U17-134T
WAS $27,699
NOW $22,499*

2017 RAV4 LE
4-cyl, Auto, FWD, Bronze,
STK#U18-047R
NOW $22,499*

2015 Highlander LE Sport
4-cyl, Auto, 2WD, Pearl White,
STK#U17-135P
WAS $29,399
NOW $22,999*

2017 Rav4 LE
4-cyl, Auto, FWD, Black,
STK#U18-048R
NOW $22,999*

2014 Tacoma 2WD, DC
4-cyl, Auto, Gray, STK#U17-139T
WAS $26,899
NOW $25,499*

2013 4Runner SR5
V6, Auto, 4WD, Gray, Mileage 46,113
STK#U18-013T
NOW $26,999*

2016 Sienna, V6
Auto, FWD, White, Mileage 33,929,
STK#U18-010L
WAS $30,499
NOW $27,599*

2013 Tacoma
DC, V6, Auto, 4WD, Red,
STK#U18-038T
NOW $28,899*

2015 Nissan Xterra
Pro-4X, V6, Auto, 4WD, Red,
STK#U18-035T
NOW $29,299*

2017 Tacoma DC, SR
4-cyl, Auto, 2WD, White,
Mileage 20,234, STK#R18-012F
NOW $29,999*

2017 Tacoma DC
TFD, Lifted, Auto, 4WD, Orange,
STK#R18-019F
NOW $43,999*

*On approved credit. Conditions apply. See dealer for details. Fees not included. Mileage may vary.

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BOE: Keep schools drug-free

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Regardless of what will happen to a bill that would legalize the use of cannabis in the CNMI, the Board of Education wants cannabis out of all public schools.

The board, in last week's board meeting, voted 5-0 to request the Legislature to uphold the ban of cannabis use by their staff who serve in safety-sensitive positions.

The sentiment was embodied in the board's written comments that were submitted to the House Judicial and Governmental Affairs Committee, chaired by Rep. Ivan A. Blanco (R-Saipan), on Senate Bill 20-62 SS1.

S.B. 20-62, introduced by Sen. Sixto K. Igisomar (R-Saipan), aims to regulate cannabis use—both medicinal and recreational—in the CNMI. It passed the Senate but was referred back to JGO because of revenue-generating provisions.

The BOE wants the bill amended to include the following provisions: Prohibit marijuana on all campuses and PSS buildings under all circumstances and exempt PSS from the prohibition on employees discriminating against employees for marijuana use.

BOE legal counsel Tiberius Mocanu said PSS should be exempted from the prohibition on employers discriminating against pot use, "that we should be able to not hire or to fire people for marijuana use."

"Safety-sensitive positions, like bus drivers and teachers, need to be sober when performing their duties. We are also not allowing it on campuses, even in varying circumstances, including prescription," he added.

S.B. 20-62 had the same experience as the NMI Workforce Act or the CW1 bill in the U.S. Congress, as it also needed to be re-introduced in the House as there are revenue-generating sections. The U.S. Constitution requires all revenue-generating measures to come from the U.S. House.

BOE chair MaryLou S. Ada said they are glad PSS was given the chance to submit their comments. "We discussed it with the governor [Ralph DLG Torres]. …[Our comments] will be included exactly as to the amendments."

Ada, in written comments submitted early this month, said the BOE believes that the recreational use of marijuana should barred within PSS. "Our students face any number of obstacles to receiving an education. Whether it be a student's home life, poverty, or access to resources, our children need to navigate distraction and disadvantage."

"The legalization of marijuana for recreational use will both be a distraction and disadvantage. However, it seems that the Legislature has already decided it will legalize marijuana in one form or another. Consequently, this letter, which seeks amendments to the current bill, is not an endorsement of legalization, but is written against the backdrop of the existing political reality."

She reminded that PSS receives federal funding and is covered by drug-free workplace laws. "It is simply a bad idea to allow students and teachers to consume and possess marijuana on campus. Since smoking would still be prohibited on campus, the only form of consumption that would be permitted would be oils and edibles."

"It is of the utmost importance that PSS not lose its federal funding. The funding pays for infrastructure, books, and Title I teachers. This bill places the funding in jeopardy."

"It is imperative that our bus drivers are never under the influence of drugs when they drive our children to school. It is necessary that our teachers are sharp and prepared" when they hold classes.

Ada is also understandably concerned about legalization's impact on PSS students.

"Students who have prescription could easily share their marijuana snacks with those that do not, or worse yet, sell to their fellow classmates. This would cause immeasurable harm to PSS' ability to educate our students and to maintain a safe and orderly campus," she said.

Workforce dev't board completes training

The CNMI State Workforce Development Board recently completed regional Technical Assistance Training sponsored by the U.S. Department of Labor Employment and Training Administration Region VI of San Francisco.

Training was held at the Kapiolani Community College campus in Honolulu, Hawaii and covered strategic workforce board training; performance and program intensive, and fiscal grant management.

The two-day training, facilitated by Maher and Maher, taught strategies and best practices to improve the engagement of the board and enhance sector partnerships to further advancements in performance and adherence with the visions of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act.

John Bailey, acting regional administrator for USDOL-ETA Region VI San Francisco, was impressed with the new level of commitment by Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and his administration to ensure the CNMI's participation.

"The CNMI has progressed swiftly," he said.

Torres said that since the official convening of the SWDB in January, strategies to build a local workforce have garnered more support in the private sector.

"The CNMI Workforce Development Board continues to build on its existing resources and training to address the best way tackle our workforce shortage, and it will continue to be a critical priority for us moving forward. I've stated earlier that we need to focus our efforts toward building our U.S. workforce now and in the long run. Workforce innovation and opportunities need to be adaptive to our development activities, capacity, and policies and the CWDB has my full support," Torres said.

Labor Secretary Vicky Benavente noted that the SWBC also visited the American Job Center of the State of Hawaii's Workforce Development Division, noting that the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act or WIOA authorizes the AJC or One-Stop Center and calls for the co-location of the WIOA Core Programs as well as other community partners.

Hawaii AJC manager Eric Pascua guided the CNMI team on a comprehensive tour of the center and services provided to Hawaii residents. ***(PR)***

Navy sets underwater training in Guam harbor

ASAN, Guam—U.S. Navy Explosive Ordnance Disposal Mobile Unit 5 will conduct routine underwater detonation training in outer Apra Harbor on June 27, from 10am to 1pm.

EODMU-5 will detonate a total of five pounds of explosives on a sandy area of the sea floor.

For the safety of the public and participants involved, the Coast Guard will establish safety zones to restrict access in the vicinity of the training area.

EODMU-5 performs routine underwater detonation training to develop the skills needed to be ready to rapidly respond to operational missions and unexploded ordnance support on Guam and the CNMI.

For the safety of personnel and marine life, the area will be visually cleared by divers and by lookouts on the surface before, during and after the exercise. All activity will cease temporarily if a person or marine life is seen in the area. ***(PR)***

CNMI DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
AMERICA'S SBDC CNMI
CDA COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

FREE Small Business Development Workshops

HR Topic: Creating A Drug Free , Weapon Free, & Well-Being Workplace Policy

Thursday, June 28, 2018

8:30am—9:30am

Location: CDA Board Room, 1st Floor, San Jose

Presented by:
Michael Dotts, Dotts Law Firm

Michael Dotts has been an attorney in the CNMI for more than 25 years. Much of his career has been spent representing employers with employment issues. Michael started his career in San Francisco with a law firm that represented employers in union negotiations and before the NLRB. On Saipan he represented numerous employers in investigations and brought by the Department of Labor related to claims of unpaid overtime. He has also represented numerous employers in investigations and in Federal Court actions brought by the EEOC, and he has also defended employers sued for wrongful termination.

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Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Rehabilitation Council
P.O. Box 501521, SAIPAN, MP 96950 • Tel: (670) 322-6537 • Fax: (670) 322-6548
TTY: (670) 322-6549 • E-Mail: nmidir@ovrgov.net

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC §9910, the State Rehabilitation Council will hold its FY 2018 Third General Membership Meeting on Tuesday, July 3, 2018 at the Aqua Resort Club – Taga Room from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Interested individuals are welcome to attend.

AGENDA

I. Call to Order
II. Roll Call
III. Review and Adoption of Agenda of July 3, 2018
IV. Review and Adoption of Minutes of April 19, 2018
V. Reports
  a. SRC Interim Chairperson
  b. Quality Assurance/Quality Improvement Committee Chairperson
  c. Employment & Marketing Committee Chairperson
  d. Transition & Assistive Technology Committee Chairperson
  e. OVR Director
VI. Action Items
  a. Ratify and Approve Pre-ETS Policy & Procedure
  b. Ratify and Approve Section 8: Application, Assessment for Determination of Eligibility, Eligibility, and Extension Policy & Procedure
  c. Ratify and Approve Section 7: Management Information System (MIS) Policy & Procedure
  d. Ratify and Approve Section 8: Equal Rights Policy & Procedure
VII. Old Business
  a. WIOA One-Stop Center
VIII. New Business
  a. Skills to Pay the Bills Training
  b. CNMI WIOA Unified State Plan Approval
  c. CNMI WIOA MOU Approval
IX. Consumer Forum
X. Employer Forum
XI. Miscellaneous/Announcements
XII. Adjournment

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend the meeting but require accommodation such as large print or sign language interpreter, are asked to call Elvira Seman at 322-6537/38 (voice) or 322-6549 (TTY) no later than Thursday, June 28, 2018.

/s/ Frances A. Torres, *Interim Chairperson*

This advertisement is paid for with Federal funds made possible by a grant from the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education and Rehabititation Services.

Newest Walt Disney cartoon writer is from Saipan

By BEA CABRERA
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

Twenty-four-year-old Amy Hudkins, born and raised on Saipan, is making a name for herself as one of Walt Disney's cartoon artists in California.

Hudkins

Hudkins is a writer and storyboard artist for Disney Channel's *Big City Greens*, a cartoon comedy and adventure series that focuses on a country boy named Cricket Green who moves to the big city with his family.

"You can watch [*Big City Greens*] on Disney Channel. Storyboard artists often wear a bunch of different hats, but the job is primarily one thing: To draw out a blueprint for what you see on screen," said Hudkins in an email to *Saipan Tribune*.

In animation, that also means drawing expressions, drawing the character acting, drawing where they are, what the scene is, and turning the story into something people can watch.

"We also write dialogue and jokes," Hudkins added.

Hudkins finished high school at Saipan International School and took up animation at the Savannah College of Art & Design in Georgia.

"I've really liked drawing for as long as I can remember, but I think animated cartoons on television are what really inspired me. I used to trace a lot of *anime* and *manga* to try and draw like it," she said.

Hudkins credits her high school art teacher, Nancy Provido, for sustaining her love of drawing. "I grew a lot learning from her. She would also call me out on my weaknesses."

Her mother, Merle Costelo-Hudkins, saw Hudkins' potential for drawing when she was just 7. "She started drawing *anime* when she was a child." She recounted that Amy's art teacher in high school saw her work and talked to her that Amy has talent "and told me to encourage Amy to work on it."

Hudkins said that working on the *Big City Greens* show was a matter of being "in the right place and right time."

"I got really lucky in terms of getting hired by the show. I took a storyboard test (at Disney) right before graduating college and they happened to really like my stuff. I feel grateful every day as I learn so much from the amazing people on the show."

For Hudkins, the storyline of *Big City Greens* hits close to home because it is similar to her journey—moving from island life on Saipan to a big city in California.

"Chris and Shane Houghton, the creators of the show, based it around growing up in the country and moving to the city, which is kind of like growing up in Gualo Rai and moving to Los Angeles. The 'fish out of water' story…is relatable to most people, not just 'country folk,'" she said.

"I am grateful for my time growing up on Saipan and I'm grateful for my family, especially to my parents who had my back and supported me and my dreams. The show has a lot of heart and a lot of laughs so please give it a chance and watch it! You can find the first episode for free on YouTube or iTunes," she added.

CAR FIRE
A police officer walks toward a car after it caught fire in front of the ABCD Market in Koblerville Friday morning.
DFEMS

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

MHS student orientations set

Marianas High School will be conducting their school year 2018-2019 student orientations:

- Aug. 9, 9am-12pm: Incoming freshmen & new transfer students; school gym
- Aug. 10, 9am-12pm: Sophomores; school gym
- Aug. 13, 9am-12pm: Juniors; school gym
- Aug. 14, 9am-12pm: Seniors; school gym

MHS students can now register for their courses by visiting our school website at marianashighschool.com or logging in directly to https://goo.gl/forms/bJKezkcxaGos9WVx2.

Music Trivia Day at JKPL today

The Joeten-Kiyu Public Library will host a Music Trivia Day for ages 13 and up today, June 26, from 1pm to 1:45pm. Bring your friends to sign up as a team, or come to meet new people! Questions? Call the library at (670) 235-7323/22, or email Emily at emily.jkpl@gmail.com. For the latest news and events, visit the library's website at www.cnmilib.org and like and/or follow JKPL's Facebook page, @joeten kiyu. Call the library at 670-235-7322/23 for questions/concerns. ***(PR)***

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
RFP18-CHCC/RADIOLOGY-008
SUBMISSION DEADLINE: JULY 25, 2018 TIME: 11:00 AM
"COMPUTED TOMOGRAPHY (CT) SYSTEM COMPLETE WITH AUTOMATED DUAL CONTRACT INJECTOR – COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION"

COPIES OF THE RFP PACKET MAY BE PICKED –UP AT CHCC PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY DIVISION-MEDICAL SUPPLY STORAGE FACILITY LOWER BASE SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSAL AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ PRISCILLA M. IAKOPO
CHCC DIRECTOR OF P&S

Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
1 Lower Navy Hill Road Navy Hill, Saipan, MP 96950

CNMI WIC
WOMEN • INFANTS • CHILDREN

ANNOUNCEMENT

The CNMI WIC (Women, Infants, and Children) Program is now accepting Vendor Applications for the islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

All interested vendors may pick up an application at the main office located on Upper Navy Hill Building # N-25, beginning June 04, 2018; Monday through Friday from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm, or request for an application via email at fabianu@cnmiwic.org or download an application on CHCC's website at http://chcc.gov.mp/index.php/division-of-public-health/women-infants-and-children-program

Applications must be submitted to the CNMI WIC Program's Administrative Office no later than 4:00 p.m., July 13, 2018.

Prospective applicants are encouraged to carefully read through the information provided to ensure minimum qualifications are met.

Inquiries and technical questions may be directed to the Vendor Management Coordinator, Fabian M. Ulloa at (670) 664-4067, by email at fabianu@cnmiwic.org.

USDA is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.

/s/ **Esther L. Muna**
Chief Executive Office
Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation

/s/ **Erin Angela Camacho**
WIC Program Administrator
CNMI WIC Program

MVA is 'Most Creative' at Beijing tourism expo

The Marianas Visitors Authority won the "Most Creative Booth Award" at the Beijing International Tourism Expo on June 15-17, 2018. MVA

The Marianas Visitors Authority joined Beijing's top annual travel show on June 15-17, 2018, to promote the Marianas.

In cooperation with Century Tours, the MVA promoted the Marianas to worldwide travel trade representatives, media representatives, and members of the public at the Beijing International Tourism Expo Century.

"Among the international exhibitors, our booth received the 'Most Creative Booth Award' and was quite popular," said MVA marketing manager Broc Calvo. "Our booth had an eye-catching design and several types of experiences that produced a steady stream of inquiries throughout the expo."

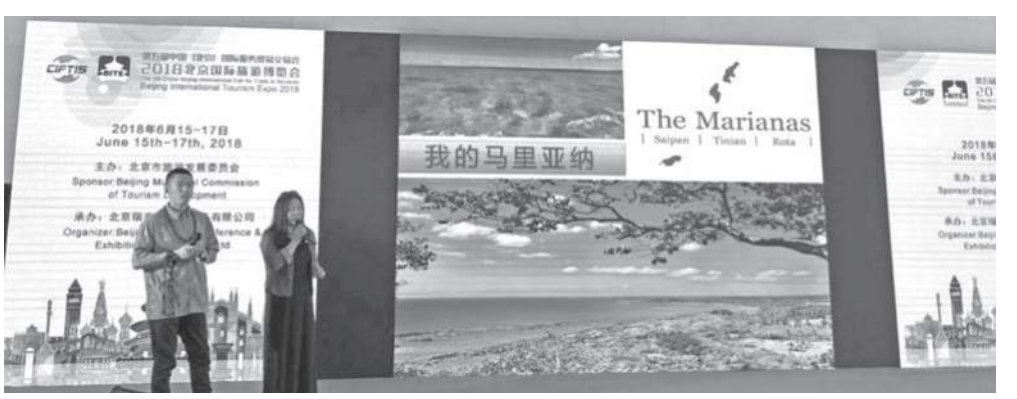
The Marianas Visitors Authority promotes the Marianas at the Beijing International Tourism Expo on June 15-17, 2018. MVA

Century Tours joined the MVA this year at the show and helped address the extensive industry and consumer inquires.

The MVA promoted eight specific travel themes and provided virtual reality viewing for visitors to their booth, in addition to answering inquiries and distributing information about the destination. On the main stage, the MVA made n presentation of Marianas tourism resources and popular travel blogger Doukou shared about her travel experiences in the Marianas. ***(MVA)***

The Marianas Visitors Authority and Century Tours answer questions about the Marianas at the Beijing International Tourism Expo on June 15-17, 2018. MVA

The Marianas Visitors Authority's marketing teams promotes the Marianas at the Beijing International Tourism Expo on June 15-17, 2018. From left are sales manager Joli Wang, sales manager Snow Chen, and marketing specialist Cherie Qiu of Century Tours; and in-country manager Flo Shi, travel trade manager Rex Zhao, and marketing specialist Rachel Song of the MVA. MVA



Popular travel blogger Doukou, left, shared about her travel experiences in the Marianas during the Beijing International Tourism Expo on June 15-17, 2018. MVA

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd Floor Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BIDS
DPW-18-IFB-016

PUTENG DRIVE ROAD IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

Governor Ralph Dlg. Torres and Lt. Governor Victor B. Hocog, through the Departmentof Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed bids for **Puteng Drive Road Improvement Project**, Saipan Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The project package will be available on or after **June 26, 2018** at Technical Services Division, Department of Public Works, located on Second Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, San Jose, Saipan. A non-refundable payment of **One Hundred Dollars ($100.00)** is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Teasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the DPW Technical Services Division.

All interested bidders are also required to include Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC can be obtained at the Department of Commerce/Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations currently in effect."

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITUES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

There will be a **Pre-bid Conference** for this project on **July 13, 2018**, 9:00 a.m. local time at the Department of Public Works Conference Room 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center Office, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All question regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **July 26, 2018** to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

Prospective bidders should examine and review the invitation for bids with care. If it should appear to a prospective bidder that the performance of the work under the contract or any of the matters relative thereto is not sufficiently described or explained in the invitation for bids, or that any discrepancy exists between different parts of the invitation for bids, or that full intent of the invitation for bids is not clear, then the prospective bidder shall submit a written request for clarification no later than ten (10) working days before the scheduled bid opening at 4:30 pm to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. The prospective bidder shall examine carefully the site of the proposed work and the invitation for bids before submitting a bid.

The Contracting Officer (CO) may, upon recommendation of the Contracting Officer's Technical Representative (COTR), issue an addendum notifying all prospective bidders known to have received an invitation for bids, or if issued after the deadline for submission of the notice of intention to bid, to those persons who submitted such notice, of any changes to the invitation for bids. The Department of Public Works will make every reasonable attempt to notify all persons who obtained the invitation for bids from the Technical Services Division by telephone to pick up the addendum or if the CO chooses, the addendum may be mailed or delivered personally or by facsimile machine. If the bid proposal requires the acknowledgment of addenda, the prospective bidder shall indicate the date of each addendum in the space provided. **It shall be the prospective bidder's responsibility to confirm the existence of any addendum by telephoning the COTR at (670) 234-9828/9838 no later than ten (10) Calendar days before the scheduled bid opening.**

Sealed bids must be marked **"DPW18-IFB-016"**. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascencion Drive, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill, Saipan, no later than **10:00 a.m. local time July 26, 2018**. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional Seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than **10:00 a.m. local time, July 26, 2018**, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to **procurement@cnmidof.net.** For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **July 26, 2018** and the BID documents must be received at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than **August 6, 2018.** Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascencion Drive, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill, Saipan, at **10:00 a.m. local time, August 8, 2018**. However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at **10:00 a.m. local time, on July 26, 2018**.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars **($25,000.00)** a bid security of fifteen (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. **Bid security shall be on a bid bond, in cash, by certified check, cashiers check or other form acceptable to the government. A surety company shall hold the certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. Surety requiring approval of the Attorney General must be pre-approved prior to bid submission.** Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations . The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than $25,000.00. Prior to the execution of the contract, the selected contractor shall submit:

a) A current license from the bonding company showing that it has authority to issue bond in the CNMI, and
b) A certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments on other bond obligations) exceed the penal amount of each bond.

A contractor submitting an unacceptable payment or performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the P&S Director, to substitute an acceptable bond prior to executing a contract.

Acceptable assets are only:

1) Cash
2) US Gov't Securities
3) Stocks and Bonds traded on US Security Exchange
4) Real Property owned in fee simple in US; and
5) Irrevocable Letters of Credit

Performance time for completion of this project is Ninety (90) calendar days upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages for delays beyond the established completion date will be assessed at the rate of One Hundred (US$100.00) for each and every day the work is delayed beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

JAMES A. ADA
Secretary of Public Works

HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director of Procurement & Supply

Australia, Vanuatu to negotiate security treaty

CANBERRA, Australia (AP)—Australia said on Monday it would negotiate a security treaty with Vanuatu, weeks after the Australian prime minister warned China against building a military base on the South Pacific island nation.

Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull announced the negotiations during a visit to the Australian Parliament House by Vanuatu Prime Minister Charlot Salwai Tabimasmas.

"We agreed to commence negotiations on a bilateral security treaty on common security interests, such as humanitarian assistance and disaster response, maritime surveillance and border security, police and defense cooperation," Turnbull said in a statement.

Turnbull said he and Salwai had reinforced their commitment to a deep and enduring economic and security partnership.

A Vanuatu government spokesman did not immediately respond to a request for comment on Monday.

In May, China and Vanuatu denied media reports that the Chinese had approached the former joint British-French colony, population 280,000, about building a permanent military presence in the South Pacific.

Turnbull said at the time Australia "would view with great concern the establishment of any foreign military bases in those Pacific island countries and neighbors of ours."

New Zealand Prime Minster Jacinda Ardern said her country takes "a strong position in the Pacific against militarization."

Vanuatu's Infrastructure Minister Jotham Napat told Australian Broadcasting Corp. last week that Salwai would use his Australian visit to ask Turnbull for Australia to help pay for a high-speed telecommunications cable from Sydney to Vanuatu.

The request follows the Australian government announcement last week that it would pay most of the 137 million Australian dollar ($101 million) price tag for such an undersea cable to South Pacific neighbors Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands.

Australia stepped into that project after the Solomons government signed a contract with the Chinese telecommunications giant Huawei in 2017 to build a cable to the Sydney broadband hub. The Solomons consequently scrapped the Huawei deal.

Huawei has been flagged by U.S. intelligence officials as a national security threat because of its links to the Chinese Communist Party. Australia has barred Huawei on security grounds from bidding for contracts in a national broadband network which is currently being rolled out Australia-wide.

MANAGEMENT BOOT CAMP
Participants of a two-part "Management Boot Camp" training seminar have their photo taken outside the Saipan Chamber of Commerce office after the seminar, which was organized by the chamber's Small Business Committee and Island Training Solutions. The seminar was geared to teach managers, team leaders, and aspiring line workers the essential skills to lead others in the workplace. Part 1 was held on May 24 and Part 2 was held on June 21.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality
Division of Coastal Resources Management
P.O. Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950
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www.deq.gov.mp

Ralph DLG. Torres, Governor
Victor B. Hocog, Lt. Governor
Eki D. Cabrera, Administrator
Ray S. Masga, Director, DEQ
Janice E. Castro, Director, DCRM

NOTICE

WATER QUALITY STANDARDS AMENDMENT
PUBLIC HEARING

The CNMI Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality (BECQ), under the Office of the Governor, hereby notifies the public that a public hearing has been scheduled for the proposed amendments to the CNMI Water Quality Standards. The proposed amendments pertain to the requirement set forth in the Clean Water Act that States and Territories periodically review their Water Quality Standards, make any necessary changes, and provide for an opportunity for public comment.

PUBLIC HEARING:
Date: July 13, 2018
Time: 5:00p.m.
Location: 2nd Floor BECQ Building,
Gualo Rai, Saipan

The proposed amendments will be published in the June edition of the Commonwealth Register. A copy of the proposed amendments is available now for public inspection at the office of the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality, 1st floor of the Gualo Rai Center Building, Gualo, Saipan.

Written comments will be accepted up to thirty (30) days from the date of publication in the Commonwealth Register, and should be submitted to: Administrator, Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality, P.O. Box 501304, Saipan, MP, 96950 or by email to waterqualityreport@deq.gov.mp. Emails should contain the subject line "WQS Comments".

ELI D. CABRERA
Administrator

cc: file

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONS LICENSING BOARD
P.O. Box 502078, Bldg., 1242 Pohnpei Court
Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel No: (670) 664-4809 Fax: (670) 664-4814
Email: cnmi@cnmibpl-hcplb.net
Website: cnmibpl-hcplb.net

Pursuant to P.L. 8-41, Section 11, Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lt. Governor Victor B. Hocog, through the Health Care Professions Licensing Board (HCPLB) are hereby giving notice that it will hold its regular monthly board meeting on **Thursday, June 28, 2018 at 12 noon** on Saipan. The meeting will be held at the CHCC Conference Room #2, Lower Navy Hill.

AGENDA

I. Meeting Call to Order
II. Determination of Quorum
III. Review and Adoption of Agenda
IV. Review and Adoption of Minutes (05/09/18)
V. Public Comments
VI. Chairperson's Report
  A. Complaint letter regarding Paradise Dental Center
VII. Director's Report
VIII. Investigator's Report
IX. Communications from the Governor's Office & Legislature
  A. Governor's Office
  B. Legislature
X. Old Business
XI. New Business
XII. Pending Applications for Board's Review
  A. New Applications:
  B. Renewal Applications:
XIII. Miscellaneous Business
XIV. Executive Session: The Board may vote to meet in executive session to consult with counsel with pending or anticipated legal matters.
  • Physician License # 546
  • Temporary License – R.Chong
XV. Announcements
  A. Next Meeting Date
  B. Adjournment of Meeting

/s/ Theodore R. Parker, R.Ph., MPH
Chairman

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP NO.: RFP18-COTA/FTA-114

SUBMISSION DATE: JULY 26, 2018 TIME: 09:30 A.M.

"OFFICE SPACE RENTAL FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OFFICE OF TRANSIT AUTHORITY"

THE SPECIFICATIONS FOR THIS PROJECT WILL BE AVAILABLE ON OR AFTER **JUNE 26, 2018** AT COTA, OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL ASSISTANT FOR PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION, 2ND FLOOR SUITE 216 MARIANAS BUSINESS PLAZA, NARU LOOP, SUSUPE, SAIPAN.

ALL QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS RFP **MUST** BE SUBMITTED VIA EMAIL TO MR. JADE MANGUBAT AT cota16assistant@gmail.com **NO LATER THAN THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS, 4:30, LOCAL TIME, JULY 13, 2018.**

THIS IS A FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT, BIDDERS ARE REQUIRED TO COMPLY WITH FTA FEDERAL CONTRACT CLAUSES AS APPLICABLE.

THE LESSOR MUST COMPLY WITH CNMI PUBLIC LAW 15-23, ARTICLE 5, SECTION 8652 (A-D). THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ ALFREDA P. CAMACHO
S/A FOR PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXVIII, Issue No. 125

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The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

How the US should help end a mass starvation in the Middle East

We remember when Aleppo became a household word. The carnage inflicted on Syrian civilians in that city by their autocratic leader, Bashar Assad—with help from Russian forces—ingrained in the world's collective consciousness the depths a despot will reach to cling to power. Thousands died. Much of the city was razed.

Soon, Hodeida, too, may become a household word. Hodeida is the primary port of the broken Middle Eastern nation of Yemen, a country ripped apart by three years of civil war. United Arab Emirates-backed forces loyal to Yemen's exiled government, together with Saudi air power, have launched an offensive to retake Hodeida, now held by Houthi rebels. The Houthis control much of the Arabian Peninsula nation and are well-entrenched in Hodeida. The fighting could drag on for months.

The peril isn't confined to the 600,000-some Yemenis who live in Hodeida; the metropolis is a lifeline for Yemenis throughout the country. More than three-fourths of Yemen's food arrives via the Red Sea port. The United Nations estimates that fighting in Hodeida could inflict mass starvation on as many as 8 million of the country's 28 million Yemenis.

An estimated 50,000 Yemeni children already have died of starvation. More than a million Yemenis are infected with cholera. Yemen is already the world's worst humanitarian disaster, and the looming battle for Hodeida could make that disaster far worse.

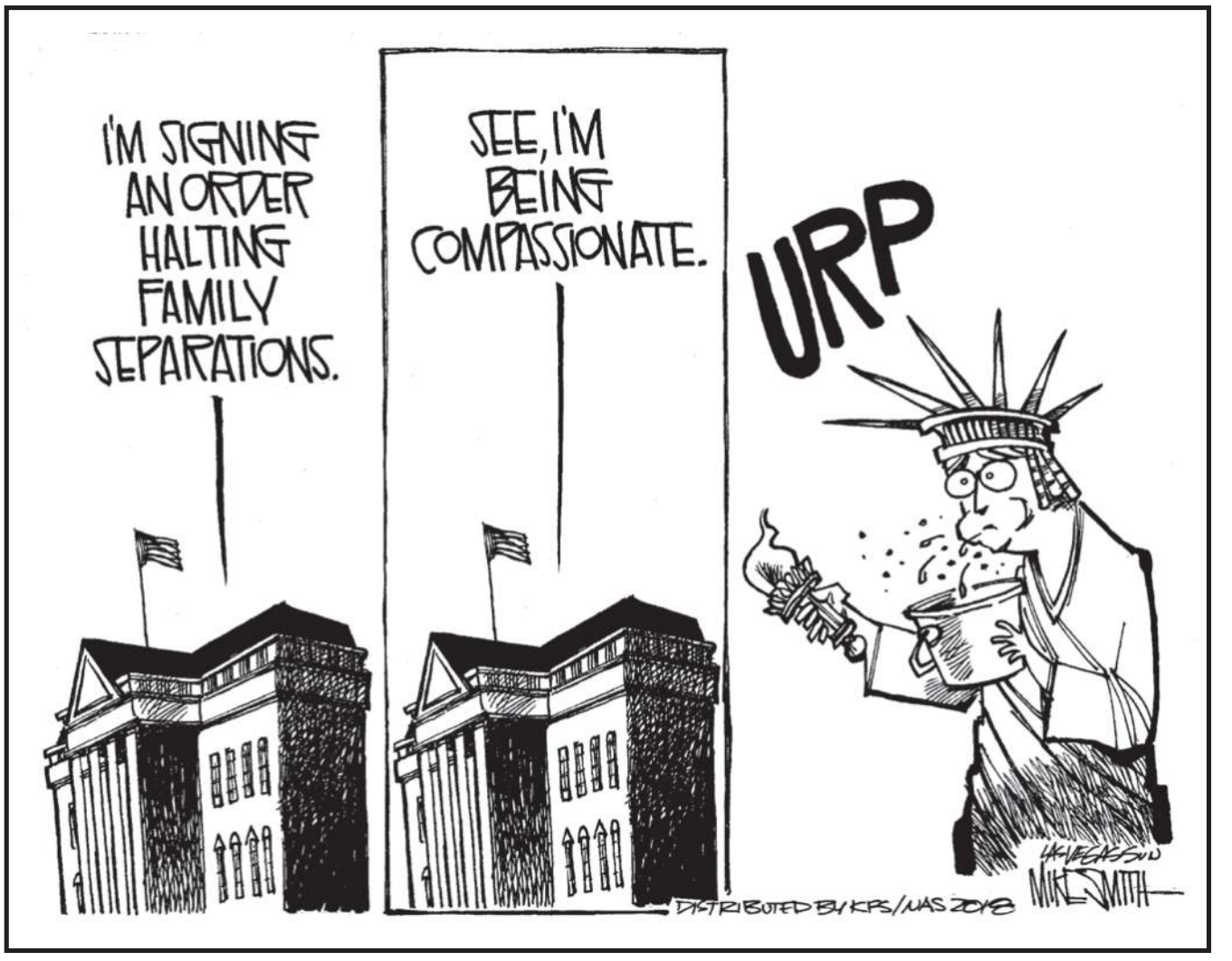
Western media haven't yet paid extensive attention, so don't feel neglectful if much of this is news to you.

But the magnitude of the suffering and a larger geopolitical struggle could raise the profile of the Yemenis and their plight. The war in Yemen has become a proxy conflict pitting Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, both longtime U.S. allies, against Iran, which Riyadh accuses of actively helping the Houthi rebels. The Saudis say Iran has been supplying the missiles Houthi forces are using to strike targets on Saudi territory. Saudi and Emirati fighter jets, meanwhile, have been behind a relentless bombing campaign against Houthi rebels that has killed thousands of Yemeni civilians.

The United States is not a bystander in this crisis. Washington provides intelligence, munitions and aerial refueling for Saudi and United Arab Emirates fighter jets. Since taking office, President Donald Trump has sought even closer ties with Riyadh. So it comes as no surprise that the Trump administration has said little about the peril Yemen's people face.

But the U.S. can't afford to stay silent as the suffering intensifies. If it does, it risks accusations of complicity in the horror unfolding in Yemen. "The U.S. already has blood on

See US on Next Page



Another issue of separating children from parents

By JAY AMBROSE
Tribune News Service

Jay Ambrose is an op-ed columnist for Tribune News Service. Readers may email him at speaktojay@aol.com.

The deservedly big news splashing us all in the face lately has been about the children being ripped away from their illegal-immigrant parents at the U.S.-Mexico border. Many Americans are horrified, which is far from what seems the mostly lackadaisical, yawning reaction to a similar, far more terrifying issue, one in which tens of millions of children live without their father. There are horrible consequences, one of which is too often suicide.

Killing ourselves has been another big news story lately—the rate has gone up 25 percent since 1999—and a joint federal study shows that 63 percent of youths who commit suicide come from single-parent homes, which are almost always fatherless homes. The studies do not stop there. One from Michigan State University, for example, shows 75 percent of adolescent murderers are from these homes, and the Centers for Disease Control says 85 percent of children with behavioral disorders will look in vain to find a father around the house.

I have written about all of this before, also noting, for instance, that an astonishing 42 percent of all American children now are inhabitants of these homes with missing fathers. Then come the angry emails. They tell me poverty is at work here, not a lack of a biological parent. They say I am degrading innocent mothers who do not need a mess of a man around to worsen their lives and abuse the little ones. These mothers can handle everything just fine, I am informed, although they often do need help from the daddy substitute, known as government. What is definitely not needed, I am informed, is someone caught up in preserving an ages-old familial tradition that somehow is no longer necessary for societal preservation.

First off, while poverty can obviously make everything worse, all kinds of evidence shows it is not poverty at work in childhood crises nearly as much as that missing father. For instance, there are poor urban neighborhoods without a lot of crime, but that changes when fatherless homes step in. Getting married helps end poverty. Not getting married often instigates it. Children raised in single-parent homes are far more likely to be poor as adults than those from two-parent homes, perhaps in part because those children from single-parent homes are also far more likely to drop out of school.

Clearly, many mothers do an excellent job of raising their children without a father around, but the strain on them can be next door to cruelty. It is true, too, that there are fathers abusive to both wives and children, men who help nary a bit and are more hindrance than help in child-raising. Unwed motherhood, the principle factor in single-parent homes, can often be a consequence as much as anything of the fathers fleeing responsibility. But men are not inevitably toxic by nature or culture, and, generally speaking, it takes two parents to raise a child. Each sex brings something special to the task, and if you want a well-rounded, emotionally mature, self-reliant adult to arise from a family, it counts for a lot to have a family to arise from.

Government is not going to take care of all of this. It can give money to the needy, but money is not love nor guidance. It is not a male model nor something who can give a daughter more a sense of what and who men are in a world in which there are quite a few of them to deal with. Visiting or live-in boyfriends? Statistics show they are far more likely to abuse children than their fathers are. Some may compensate to some degree or the other while many will just make things worse.

America remains in many ways a great country, but we are also a society in deep trouble. Social norms are disappearing, not just in the White House but among people who think it is somehow funny and smart and courageous to shout obscenities on national TV or to wholly avoid protocols or to disrespect anything and everything, from religious faith to country. Religion itself appears to be dying out around the country, and, while some may cheer that occurrence, there are dire communal and personal consequences. An example gets us back to the suicide issue—research demonstrates people who attend church regularly are less likely to take their own lives. And suicide is one of a number of reasons, also including widespread opioid abuse, of an increasing death rate. Trust is declining, not just in media and political institutions, but in everything, even including next-door neighbors. Mass incarceration is ruinous.

Family is and always has been a fundamental building block of society. Let it continue to fade away and see what happens to us. The recent concern about parents and children being separated from each other at the border shows people can just maybe be moved as well to look at this broader, difficult, horrendous separation of children from fathers and to engage in making changes and fighting to restore old moral principles without which we are lost.

We defend the rights of children on the border, we ignore them at home

By CYNTHIA M. ALLEN
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

Cynthia M. Allen is a columnist for the Fort Worth Star-Telegram. *Readers may send her email at cmallen@star-telegram.com.*

FORT WORTH, Texas—It's a truth universally acknowledged that children need their parents—to thrive, feel secure, and know who they are.

Which is why the Trump administration's now rescinded policy to separate and detain children and parents illegally crossing the southern border has been especially cruel.

While it was crudely defended by the president and his minions as a "deterrent" to future migrants, it was an attempt to dehumanize immigrant children—to turn them into bargaining chips in the administration's fight with congress over immigration reform—thereby making it possible to ignore their human rights.

Indeed, the right to remain with one's parents is explicitly named in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, which the U.S. has signed but never ratified. It further charges the state with the responsibility for ensuring this right is not violated.

In truth, we don't need an international agreement to tell us what we innately know to be true—that children and parents, whenever possible, should be together and that children have an inherent right to be raised by the people who created them.

It is unlikely that President Trump has heard of this document, but plenty of thoughtful people who have justifiably raised a furor over the administration's policy have demonstrated that they firmly believe its principles and will vigorously defend them—at least when the violation is obvious and the perpetrator is Donald Trump.

But in the United States, the rights of children, most especially their right to be raised by their biological parents, are violated daily, a practice enabled by the state. These offenses may seem pedestrian, yet they are dangerous and damaging to children. They occur in our homes, courts, and medical clinics, and they are met with deafening silence from adults otherwise apoplectic over the actions on our border.

Without the dramatic testimony of tiny children being torn from the arms of their mothers—but instead the staid filing of paperwork, the monotony of court proceedings, even the joyful gasps of a couple first laying eyes on a child bought and paid for—we fail to accept that willful, wrongful attacks on children and families that occur every day. Just consider our prevalent divorce rates, the single parenthood by choice movement, the normalization of surrogacy and the booming market for sperm and egg purchases. Dare I mention the horrific frequency of abortion. Yet it has taken a crisis at the border to shed light on the sobering reality that children and family life in America are not sacred, not cherished and not protected.

I believe this is what Fort Worth's Catholic Bishop Michael Olson was intimating when he called the separation of migrant children from their parents "a living metaphor for the destructive assaults upon family life in the name of individual rights."

Decades of research affirm that children endure physical and emotional harm by family separation, especially when it is long-term. We've been reminded of this fact repeatedly in recent days.

Yet nearly half of marriages in the U.S. end in divorce, usually resulting in the separation of children from one parent. This despite a bounty of research demonstrating "that children living with their married, biological parents consistently have better physical, emotional, and academic well-being."

The children of single mothers tend to fare worse when it comes to school achievement, health, social and emotional development, and professional success.

And studies have shown that donor offspring, when compared to their adopted peers and those raised by their biological parents, are twice as likely to report problems with the law, more than twice as likely to struggle with substance abuse, and about 1.5 times as likely to suffer from depression or other mental health problems.

All of these practices that forcibly separate children from their parents have been normalized, even lauded. As a society, we no longer consider the ethics involved. No one asks, "is this good for the child?" Perhaps because when such separation fulfills the rights or desires of the involved adults, we don't even think to question it.

We should.

Children are not bargaining chips, nor are they commodities whether on the border or in the lab. The UN convention recognizes that every one of us has a mother and father, and whenever possible, we have a right to know them and be loved and nurtured by them.

If we want to protect children, we needn't look just to the border. The crisis is all around us.

Americans embrace change, but only gradually

By KARA ALAIMO
Bloomberg News

After Donald Trump's election in 2016, then-President Barack Obama asked whether his administration's liberal, forward-looking policies had been too much, too soon for American voters, according to a new book by his deputy national security adviser, Ben Rhodes. "Maybe we pushed too far," Obama said. "Sometimes I wonder whether I was 10 or 20 years too early."

He may be on to something. Research suggests that Americans don't embrace change all at once, but instead change their minds at a glacial pace.

The political scientist John Kingdon studied policy proposals for health maintenance organizations such as Medicaid and Medicare, national health insurance and deregulation of transportation systems. He concluded that policy change can take decades. Advocates must spend many years educating and "softening up" Americans to bring them around to new ideas. The persuasion is done in lots of ways: through speeches, congressional hearings, studies, conferences, media and legislation.

"Many good proposals have fallen on deaf ears because they arrived before (people) were ready to listen," Kingdon wrote. "Eventually, such a proposal might be resurrected, but only after a period of paving the way."

Some of the biggest recent cultural and legal shifts have been the result of this "softening" process. It may seem as if the #MeToo movement emerged spontaneously in October 2017, with the abuse allegations against Harvey Weinstein. That was certainly the tipping point when women collectively started to say they would no longer tolerate sexual abuse. But it's not when the process started. Generations of activists paved the way—from "first-wave" feminists like the suffragettes to the members of the "second wave" that began in the 1960s who advocated for gender equality in all aspects of life, from workplaces to homes. It was the gradual acceptance of changes in thinking about women's rights and roles over time that made it possible for women to speak out now.

Or take the Supreme Court's legalization of same-sex marriage in 2015. It was the result of generations of activism on behalf of the LGBT community and its allies. Before the national law, same-sex marriage was legalized in 37 states. Activists advocated for equality for decades.

This softening process is also true of citizens of other countries. Egypt's 2011 revolution may seem to have happened rapidly, as then-president Hosni Mubarak resigned after just 18 days of street protests. But my research found that Wael Ghonim, the Google executive who ran "We Are All Khaled Said"—a key Facebook page that drove Egyptians into the streets—spent years educating his compatriots about the abuses of their government.

He also spent a long time getting his followers comfortable with political activism. He started by organizing "Silent Stands," for example, during which protestors simply wore black and stood outside together without making demands. It was only after Ghonim laid all this groundwork that he was eventually able to move people into the streets.

The evidence is clear: No matter how charismatic or correct a single person may be, it's unlikely she or he will be able to alter the way Americans think quickly or single-handedly. People change their minds very slowly. But after lots of work softening up, they eventually come around.

US

From Page 10

its hand in the Yemen crisis," The Washington Post quoted U.S. Rep. Ted Lieu, D-Calif., as saying earlier this month. "We should not make them even bloodier."

The Trump administration has enough sway with the Saudi and Emirati regimes to make the case for a halt to the offensive on Hodeida. If pushy diplomacy doesn't work, the U.S. has another card to play—shutting down military support that Riyadh and Abu Dhabi need to fight the Houthis.

The alternative, allowing this mass starvation to intensify, cannot be an option.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Thank you and congratulations!

On behalf of the Tinian Track & Field Team, we would like to thank the Tinian Mayor's Office, Tinian Municipal Council, and the Tinian legislative delegation for providing the funds that allowed us to participate in the recently concluded Micronesia Area Championships.

We are also thankful to the Northern Marianas Athletics for all the assistance they provided. NMA was the perfect host. They deserve an A-plus and made it a first-class event. We have to congratulate Team Guam on their outstanding performances; they were head and shoulders above everyone else. Their 40 gold medals haul might be a new record.

I would like to congratulate Zarinanae Sapong on keeping her title as Micronesia's fastest woman and Traven Quitugua, NMI's fastest man, on becoming Micronesia›s second fastest teenager. Zarinanae beat Guam›s fastest girl; not many NMI athletes can say they beat Guam›s best. Good job, guys! I would give a C-minus on the rest of our performances. The main excuse was the track was only recently resurfaced and there was not enough time to practice on it.

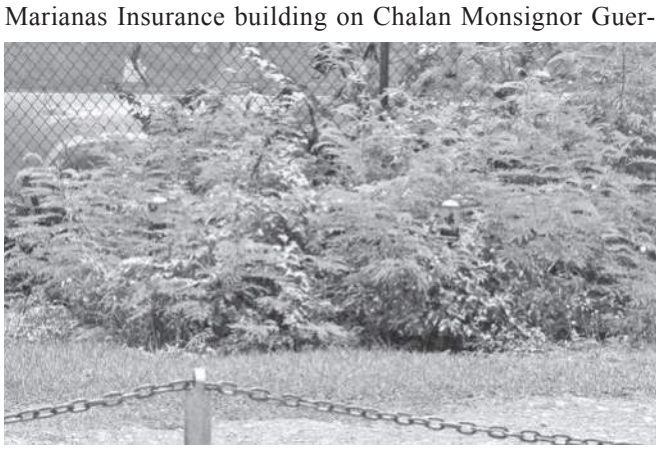
We must thank Ray Tebuteb for getting everyone together to put on a great show. The Tinian team is requesting that Mr. Tebuteb resubmit a hosting bid so we can run it back.

Ed Temengil
San Jose Tinian

Mystery hydrant

Take a look at the first photograph. What's in the shrubbery? Doesn't appear that there's anything in there but bushes. Now take a look at the second photo. See the orange thing just above center? Yep, it's a fire hydrant. How would you like to own or work in or be a customer in NAPA or the Marianas Insurance building on Chalan Monsignor Guerrero Road in San Jose? "Now, where did we put that fire hydrant?" asks the fireman holding the hose. Maybe the relevant government agency can remedy the situation. Because it's too late when a car crashes into another, killing people or a fire starts and lives and property are lost because the fire hydrant walked away.

Gary A. Liddle
Liddle Mesa Enterprises, Saipan

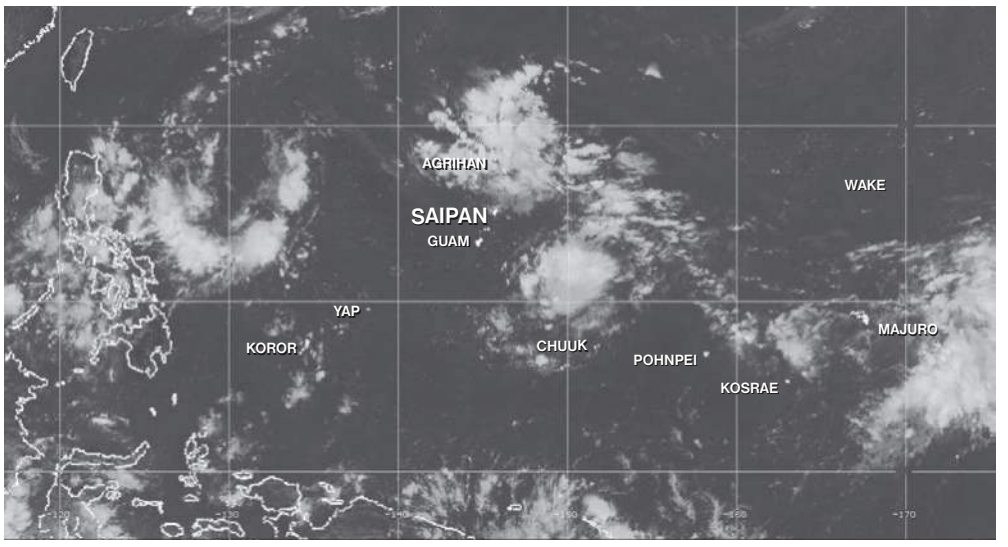


The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Partly sunny with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. Southeast winds 5 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲89° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 8:21 AM, MONDAY, JUNE 25, 2018
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Andersen Air Force Base Doppler weather radar shows isolated showers moving through the Marianas waters. Satellite extends further out and highlights an area of scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms just north of Saipan waters caused by an upper-level trough and an area southeast of Guam waters caused by an approaching surface trough. The VAD wind profile indicates east-northeast winds of 6 to 12 knots through the lowest 4 thousand feet of the air. Last night`s weather balloon shows that above this the winds turn toward the northeast with only a slight increase in speed. The buoys reveal combined seas of around 3 feet, composed of east to east-northeast swells and wind waves.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorm	85° / 80°
Palau	Thunderstorm	85° / 78°
Yap	Thunderstorm	86° / 79°
Chuuk	Mostly Sunny	86° / 79°
Pohnpei	Mostly Sunny	87° / 77°
Kosrae	Mostly Sunny	87° / 77°
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	86° / 80°

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Sunny	55° / 48°
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	102° / 73°
Hong Kong	Thunderstorm	88° / 81°
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	85° / 74°
London	Sunny	81° / 54°
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	76° / 62°
Manila	Thunderstorm	88° / 79°
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	55° / 37°
Miami	Partly Cloudy	87° / 79°
New York	Partly Cloudy	77° / 65°
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	86° / 79°
Paris	Sunny	82° / 57°
Busan	Mostly Sunny	75° / 72°
Rome	Sunny	84° / 63°
Salem	Partly Cloudy	93° / 74°
San Francisco	Sunny	60° / 52°
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	82° / 72°
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	84° / 75°
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	82° / 68°

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
12:18 AM	LOW TIDE	1.13
5:30 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.90
12:59 PM	LOW TIDE	-0.19
7:57 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.74

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:48 AM	6:50 PM
Wednesday	5:49 AM	6:50 PM
Thursday	5:49 AM	6:50 PM
Friday	5:49 AM	6:50 PM
Saturday	5:50 AM	6:51 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	4:05 AM	5:11 PM
Wednesday	-	4:50 AM	6:01 PM
Thursday	-	5:37 AM	6:51 PM
Friday	-	6:26 AM	7:39 PM
Saturday	-	7:15 AM	8:25 PM

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 6, 2018

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	8:45am	9:30am	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:10am	6:10am	1, 7
7C3451	4:00am	7:05am	4, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

TW308	2:00am	6:05am	Daily
OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
LJ652	3:40am	7:30am	1, 4, 5, 7
7C3403	4:45am	8:30am	Daily
7C3401	4:00pm	7:45pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	5:40am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)

JD396	7:30am	12:00pm	1
JD396	4:50pm	10:00pm	4

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:10am	10:55am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	10:55am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA6394/191	4:15am	9:00am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	8:10am	7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:20am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via GUM
UA6398/183	6:05pm	9:40pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA6398/183	6:05pm	9:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6398/193	6:05pm	11:50pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX077	1:50am	5:15am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UO43	5:45am	8:40am	1, 3, 5, 7
UA6398/159	6:05pm	11:00pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA117	7:00am	7:45am	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:00pm	2:10am+1	4
7C3452	9:05pm	2:10am+1	3, 6, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	9:30am	3:00pm	Daily
OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
TW307	7:45pm	1:00am+1	Daily
OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
LJ651	9:10pm	2:40am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:20pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN

JD395	8:25am	3:30pm	4
JD395	9:55pm	5:00am+1	7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:25pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA182/6395	12:40am	8:05am	3, 6 via GUM
UA190/6397	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:25pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:25pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/UA6395	10:05pm	8:05am+1	Daily via GUM
UA192/6395	10:30pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
UA184/6395	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
HX076	5:15pm	12:15am+1	3, 7
UO42	6:50pm	1:45am+1	7
UO42	9:30pm	4:25am+1	2, 4, 6
UA116/6395	11:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, LJ Jin Air, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The* Saipan Tribune *is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

Yap robotics league is extended to Pohnpei, Chuuk

Doug Domenech, assistant secretary of the Interior for Insular and International Affairs, presents a $241,675 technical assistance grant for continuation of the Yap Robo League. OIA

POHNPEI—While on an official visit to Pohnpei in the Federated States of Micronesia, Doug Domenech, assistant secretary of the Interior for Insular and International Affairs, announced a $241,675 technical assistance grant for continuation of the Yap Robo League and expansion to include students from the islands of Weno (Chuuk) and Pohnpei in the Federated States of Micronesia for academic year 2018-2019.

Part of the June 22 ceremony celebrated the success of Robo Day held in Yap this year and the extension of the program to Chuuk and Pohnpei next year.

"Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke and I are pleased to be a part of inspiring creative and technological innovation in students in the Federated States of Micronesia and are encouraged to know that there has been support from the FSM Congress and private sector alike for this program," said Domenech. "The fact that you are returning unspent funds to us today reminds us that partnerships are often more important than money when it comes to creating effective programs and successful outcomes."

Domenech presented the signed grant award to Larry Raigetal of *Waa'gey*, who accepted the grant award on behalf of the recipient organization, Habele. Vice principal Russell Figueras, accompanied by close to 50 students at the Our Lady of Mercy Catholic High School, hosted the event.

Joining Domenech at the event were U.S. Ambassador Robert Riley, FSM vice president Yosiwo George, FSM Sen. Isaac Figir, FSM Sen. Joseph Urusemal, deputy secretary of Foreign Affairs Samson Pretrick, deputy chief of mission Ted Pierce, Office of Insular Affairs director Nik Pula, and staff.

Figir and Urusemal have also provided financial support and leadership to the Yap Robo League since its creation in 2011.

At the ceremony, Domenech was granted a check in return in the amount of $1,569.01 as last year's Robo League Day was successfully completed under budget.

"On behalf of Habele, the schools, administrators, and students who took part in Yap Robo Day in May 2018, we thank you for investing in this opportunity to expand this program for students across Micronesia," said Larry Raigetal. "With support from many other partners, both public and private sector, we were able to carry out the year-long work and end-of-year Robo Day championship program under budget," said Raigetal. "As a token of our appreciation and respect for the support of the American taxpayer and the U.S. government, we are proud to return $1,569.01 as a demonstration of our good stewardship.

Doug Domenech, assistant secretary of the Interior for Insular and International Affairs, and Larry Raigetal of Waa'gey on behalf of Habele. Seated at left is deputy secretary Pretrick and Sen. Figir. A. KIM/U.S. EMBASSY KOLONIA

The Yap Robo League, organized and hosted by U.S. non-profit organization Habele Outer Islands Education Fund, was established in 2011 and turned into a statewide league in 2018.

Funding provided by the U.S. Department of the Interior allowed several schools in Yap to field student teams who designed, built, and competed complex robots at its first Yap Robo Day.

Eighty-eight students from Yap High School, Outer Islands High School, Yap Catholic High School, Yap Seventh Day Adventist School, and Faith Christian Academy took part in the competition. Nearly 300 people, including FSM Vice President Yosiwo George, participated in the May 2018 event.

Habele is a U.S.-based non-profit organization dedicated to the advancement of educational opportunities for students in the remote islands and atolls of Micronesia, a former U.S. administered trust territory in the Western Pacific.

Habele provides support to low-income students across Micronesia, including K-12 tuition scholarships for students attending non-public schools, donations of books to public schools and libraries, development of local language materials, and organization and support of after school clubs, such as the Robo League.

Funding support for the Robo League program is made available through the Office of Insular Affairs' Technical Assistance Program. ***(OIA)***

FSM Sen. Joseph Urusemal, Assistant Secretary Doug Domenech, OIA director Nik Pula (in back) Larry Raigetal of Waa'gey on behalf of Habele, U.S. Ambassador Riley, DCM Pierce, deputy secretary Pretrick, FSM Sen. Figir, and vice principal Figueras. A. KIM/U.S. EMBASSY KOLONIA

Business

Corporate America increasingly avoids gun-industry business

GAINESVILLE, Ga. (AP)—With Gary Ramey's fledgling gun-making business taking off in retail stores, he decided to start offering one of his handguns for sale on his website.

That didn't sit well with the company he used to process payments, and they informed him they were dropping his account. Another credit card processing firm told him the same thing: They wouldn't do business with him.

The reason? His business of making firearms violates their policies.

In the wake of high-profile mass shootings, corporate America has been taking a stand against the firearms industry amid a lack of action by lawmakers on gun control. Payment processing firms are limiting transactions, Bank of America stopped providing financing to companies that make AR-style guns, and retailers like Walmart and Dick's Sporting Goods imposed age restrictions on gun purchases.

The moves are lauded by gun-safety advocates but criticized by the gun industry that views them as a backhanded way of undermining the Second Amendment. Gun industry leaders see the backlash as a real threat to their industry and are coming to the conclusion that they need additional protections in Congress to prevent financial retaliation from banks.

AP

In this April 25, 2018, photo, Gary Ramey, owner and founder of Honor Defense, a gunmaker in Gainesville, Ga., holds a part from one of the company's firearms.

"If a few banks say 'No, we're not going to give loans to gun dealers or gun manufacturers', all of a sudden the industry is threatened and the Second Amendment doesn't mean much if there are no guns around," said Michael Hammond, legal counsel for Gun Owners of America. "If you can't make guns, if you can't sell guns, the Second Amendment doesn't mean much."

The issue has already gotten the attention of the Republican who is chairman of the Senate Banking Committee. Sen. Mike Crapo of Idaho sent letters criticizing Bank of America and Citigroup, which decided to restrict sales of firearms by its business customers, over their new gun rules in the wake of the Florida high school shooting in February.

"We should all be concerned if banks like yours seek to replace legislators and policy makers and attempt to manage social policy by limiting access to credit," Crapo wrote to Citigroup's chief executive.

Honor Defense is a small operation with a handful of employees that include Ramey's son and his wife who work out of a non-descript building in a Georgia office park north of Atlanta. In 2016, its first year, it sold 7,500 firearms. Its products—handcrafted 9mm handguns that come in a variety of colors—can now be found in more than 1,000 stores.

When Ramey noticed that neither Stripe nor Intuit would process payments through his site, he submitted a complaint with Georgia's attorney general's office, counting on help from a state law that prohibits discrimination by financial service firms against the gun industry. But the state rejected it, saying that credit card processing is not considered a financial service under state law.

He views the credit card issue as companies "infusing politics into business."

Seek coworkers' guidance to 'manage' nightmare boss

Q: After starting a new job three months ago, I quickly discovered that my boss is a nightmare. She argues about everything and seems to enjoy yelling at people. Whenever I bring up a work problem, she just rolls her eyes at me and shakes her head.

The worst part is that I have received almost no training for this job. Before I was hired, my manager said she would thoroughly instruct me and answer all my questions. However, she has made it quite clear that she doesn't like to be bothered.

This woman has been with the company for years, so I'm stuck with her as my boss. But the job pays extremely well, my coworkers are great, and I only plan to work here for two years. Should I put up with this aggravation or just leave?

A: Because you have several good reasons to stay, perhaps you should try to develop some coping mechanisms. As a new employee, you may find your coworkers to be a particularly helpful resource. When dealing with a difficult manager, coworkers can often make life bearable by sticking together and strategizing solutions.

Since your boss seems resistant to providing the promised training, look for experienced colleagues who might fill that role. Given their own history with this dysfunctional manager, they should certainly understand your current dilemma. If you can outline the areas where you still need instruction, perhaps they will help you create a training plan.

If certain employees seem particularly adept at communicating with your boss, take a lesson from their approach. Having identified her hot buttons, they probably know which topics to avoid. They may also have time-tested techniques for asking questions and avoiding arguments. With a little coworker coaching, you may find that "managing up" becomes a lot easier.

Q: I supervise a group of drivers who pick up deliveries in the morning and then head out on their routes for the rest of the day. I only see them for 30 minutes before they leave. As a new manager, I would like to create a positive work environment, but how can I do that with so little time?

A: When you don't have much time, you must make the most of the time you have. Surveys have shown leadership style to be a strong predictor of job satisfaction, so your own attitude and demeanor can make a big difference. During daily contacts with your team, try to be as helpful, supportive and encouraging as possible.

For any group, one key motivational strategy is to regularly remind them of the importance of their work. Your drivers are not just dropping off boxes, but also insuring that valued items arrive safely and on time. Through friendly interactions with customers, they can represent the company well and encourage repeat business.

To promote camaraderie, consider asking the drivers to share brief stories about their customers, driving experiences or tips for simplifying the job. Finally, if you also communicate via email or text, take those opportunities to share information or request input. You might even solicit ideas for making those half hour meetings more interesting.

YOUR OFFICE COACH

By MARIE G. MCINTYRE
Tribune News Service

Marie G. McIntyre is a workplace coach and the author of "Secrets to Winning at Office Politics." Send in questions and get free coaching tips at http://www.youroffi-cecoach.com, or follow her on Twitter @officecoach.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Trump lobs new threats against countries trading with the US

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Donald Trump is lobbing new threats against U.S. trade partners. Trump says Sunday on Twitter that the U.S. is "insisting" that countries remove "artificial" trade barriers and tariffs on U.S. imports to their countries "or be met with more than Reciprocity by the U.S.A." He says "Trade must be fair and no longer a one way street!" Trump already has strained relationships with North American and European allies by imposing tariffs on steel, aluminum and other products from those countries. At the conclusion of a meeting of the world's leading economies last month, Trump told reporters that he had pressed for fair and reciprocal trade practices. He said he had also urged his foreign counterparts to remove all tariffs, trade barriers and subsidies from their trading practices.

Indiana Affordable Care Act premiums could increase in 2018

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—The cost of health insurance through Affordable Care Act marketplaces in Indiana could creep up by an average of about 5 percent next year.

The Indianapolis Business Journal reports two insurers that participate in the marketplace have requested rate increases. State officials have yet to sign off on the increases, which won't be finalized until fall. CareSource Indiana Inc. is seeking an average rate increase of 10.2 percent, for an average monthly premium of $540. Celtic Insurance Co. is seeking an average rate decrease of 0.5 percent, for an average monthly premium of $479. The average increase sought is 5.1 percent, but specific plans could be higher. The proposed increases are much less than last year, when insurers received approval for rate hikes between 20 percent and 36 percent.

Hundreds march in Berlin to demand an end to using coal

BERLIN (AP)—Hundreds of protesters are marching through the German capital to demand an end to burning coal to produce electricity. The demonstrators—many of them families pushing strollers, people on bikes and samba bands—walked through the Berlin's government district on Sunday ahead of next week's first meeting of Germany's commission on exiting coal use. Germany has invested a lot in renewable energy but still heavily relies on coal, which creates harmful carbon emissions when burnt. About 22 percent of Germany's electricity comes from burning soft lignite coal—and a further 12 percent from hard coal—while some 33 percent is now generated using renewable energy. Last week, Germany's environment minister said the country will likely miss its goal of cutting emissions by 40 percent by 2020.

Nation

Reunification prospects unclear for freed immigrant parents

EL PASO, Texas (AP)—A Texas charitable organization says 32 immigrant parents separated from their children after crossing the U.S.-Mexico border were freed into its care Sunday, but they don't know where their kids are or when they might see them again despite government assurances that family reunification would be well organized.

The release is believed to be the first, large one of its kind since President Donald Trump signed an executive order Wednesday that preserved a "zero-tolerance" policy for entering the country illegally but ended the practice of separating immigrant parents and children. U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement offered no immediate comment.

■■■

EIELSON AIR FORCE BASE, Alaska (AP)—The Pentagon is preparing to build temporary camps for immigrants at two military bases, Defense Secretary Jim Mattis said Sunday.

He did not name the two bases, but said the details are being worked out, including how much capacity is needed. The Pentagon had initially talked about four potential bases, but Mattis indicated the number is now two.

The Pentagon last week said it would make space available on military bases for as many as 20,000 unaccompanied migrant children detained after illegally crossing the U.S.-Mexico border. It wasn't clear Sunday if the housing would be limited strictly to children or if it would also involve families.

Speaking to reporters traveling with him to Asia on Sunday, Mattis said the military has housed people in the past, including Vietnamese fleeing their country as well as Americans needing shelter in the wake of natural disasters.

"We consider that to be a logistics function that's quite appropriate" for the department, Mattis said.

■■■

Ruben Garcia, director of Annunciation House in El Paso, said the group of both mothers and fathers includes some from Mexico, Guatemala and Honduras who arrived to his group after federal authorities withdrew criminal charges for illegal entry. He didn't release names or personal details to protect the parents' privacy, and Homeland Security officials said they needed more specifics in order to check out their cases.

A Saturday night fact sheet by the Department of Homeland Security and other agencies said authorities know the location of all children in custody after separating them from their families at the border and are working to reunite them. It called the reunification process "well coordinated."

It also said parents must request that their child be deported with them. In the past, the fact sheet says, many parents elected to be deported without their children. That may be a reflection of violence or persecution they face in their home countries.

It doesn't state how long it might take to reunite families. Texas' Port Isabel Service Processing Center has been set up as the staging ground for the families to be reunited prior to deportation.

How the government would reunite families has been unclear because they are first stopped by U.S. Customs and Border Patrol, with children taken into custody by the Department of Health and Human Services and adults detained through ICE, which is under the Department of Homeland Security. Children have been sent to far-flung shelters around the country, raising alarm that parents might never know where their children can be found.

At least 2,053 minors who were separated at the border were being cared for in HHS-funded facilities, the fact sheet said.

The chairman of the Senate Homeland Security Committee hedged Sunday when pressed on whether he was confident the Trump administration knows where all the children are and will be able to reunite them with their parents.

"That is what they're claiming," Sen. Ron Johnson, R-Wis., said on CNN's "State of the Union."

The fact sheet states that ICE has implemented an identification mechanism to ensure ongoing tracking of linked family members throughout the detention and removal process; designated detention locations for separated parents and will enhance current processes to ensure communication with children in HHS custody; worked closely with foreign consulates to ensure that travel documents are issued for both the parent and child at time of removal; and coordinated with HHS for the reuniting of the child prior to the parents' departure from the U.S.

AP

In this Thursday, June 21, 2018 photo, migrant families rest from their travels to Matamoros, Mexico, along Gateway International Bridge which connects to Brownsville, Texas, as they seek asylum in the United States.

ACROSS THE NATION

Teen uses sign language to help blind and deaf man on flight

BOSTON (AP)—A teenager is being credited with coming to the aid of a blind and deaf man during a flight from Boston to Portland, Oregon. Clara Daly, of Calabasas, California, says she and her mother were traveling last week when the flight attendants asked if anyone knew American Sign Language. The 15-year-old had been taking sign language classes for a year and volunteered to help. That's when she met 64-year-old Tim Cook, who was traveling alone and struggling to communicate. A fellow passenger captured a photo of Clara signing into Cook's hand and posted it to Facebook Sunday. The post has since received more than 1 million likes. Cook tells KGW-TV he was "very moved" that Clara came and helped him. Clara says their chance encounter was "meant to be."

South Carolina man tries to rescue dog at NC waterfall, dies

BREVARD, N.C. (AP)—Authorities say a South Carolina man died while trying to rescue his dog at a North Carolina waterfall. News outlets report 42-year-old John Shaffer died Saturday after going over Rainbow Falls in the Pisgah National Forest, just outside Gorges State Park in the western part of the state. Lake Toxaway Fire and Rescue Chief Carmon West says Shaffer was carried over the falls when he jumped into the water to rescue his dog. Crews searched for five hours before recovering his body Saturday afternoon. West says it was the first death at Rainbow Falls since 2016, when a 24-year-old TV news anchor from Georgia, Taylor Terrell, fell 185 feet (55 meters) from the falls. Terrell was wading in the stream that flows over Rainbow Falls when she lost her footing.

Vigil held to support Minnesota mosque where bacon was found

ROCHESTER, Minn. (AP)—People have gathered for a vigil to support a Minnesota mosque after officials found bacon left near the front door and in its parking lot, an act one group called "attempted religious desecration." The Post Bulletin reports that the incident at the Masjed Abubakr Al-Seddiq Islamic Center in Rochester on Saturday has prompted a police investigation. Nearly 80 people turned out early Sunday for the vigil. Minnesota's chapter of the Council on American-Islamic Relations has called on authorities to investigate the "attempted religious desecration" of the mosque as a possible hate crime. Muslims are barred from eating pork products. Dee Sabol, executive director of the Diversity Council in Rochester, says the vigil was a stronger reaction than the action that spurred it.

Trump says people from Mexico 'invade' US

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Donald Trump compares people entering the U.S. from Mexico to invaders and says they should be immediately sent back without appearing before a judge.

The American Civil Liberties Union said in response that such a step would be illegal and violate the Constitution that Trump swore to uphold.

"We cannot allow all of these people to invade our Country," the president said on Twitter as he was being driven to his private golf club in Northern Virginia. "When somebody comes in, we must immediately, with no Judges or Court Cases, bring them back from where they came. Our system is a mockery to good immigration policy and Law and Order."

"Most children come without parents ... Our Immigration policy, laughed at all over the world, is very unfair to all of those people who have gone through the system legally and are waiting on line for years!" he continued. "Immigration must be based on merit - we need people who will help to Make America Great Again!"

"What President Trump has suggested here is both illegal and unconstitutional," said Omar Jadwat, director of the ACLU's Immigrants' Rights Project. "Any official who has sworn an oath to uphold the Constitution and laws should disavow it unequivocally."

Trump has been criticizing immigration judges for weeks, both exaggerating the number currently hearing cases and saying that hiring more—as some members of Congress have proposed—would be unnecessary.

Trump made his anti-illegal immigration stance a centerpiece of his presidential campaign and he has pushed for strict policies since taking office. He said during a campaign appearance Saturday in Las Vegas that being for "strong borders, no crime" is a winning issue for Republicans to run on in November's congressional elections.

But he bowed to public pressure last week and reversed a policy of separating adults and children who enter the U.S. illegally together at the border with Mexico, though his "zero-tolerance" policy of criminally prosecuting all illegal border-crossers remains.

The House is expected to vote on immigration legislation this week, though its fate is uncertain.

Trump told House Republicans last week that he was "100 percent" behind the effort but tweeted days later that they were "wasting their time" voting before the midterm elections.

About a dozen protesters gathered at the entrance to Trump's club Sunday afternoon as he prepared to leave, including a woman holding a sign that said "Trump Should Be Caged" and a man wrapped in a Mylar blanket. Some of the separated children were seen using the blankets on government-distributed video of their holding conditions.

Asia

US Defense chief to visit China amid S. China Sea tensions

BEIJING (AP)—U.S. Defense Secretary Jim Mattis, who has accused China of "intimidation and coercion" in the South China Sea, visits Beijing this week as the countries increasingly spar over U.S. arms sales to Taiwan and Beijing's expanding military presence overseas.

Mattis will be the first defense secretary in President Donald Trump's administration to visit China. His trip highlights the need for the U.S. and its chief rival in East Asia to engage each other despite increasingly stark differences and mutual suspicion.

Mattis' mission comes at a difficult time as the Trump administration is set to start taxing $34 billion in Chinese goods in two weeks while Beijing has vowed to retaliate with its own tariffs on U.S. products. The U.S. appears likely to rely on China for help getting North Korea to deliver on denuclearization promises made at this month's summit between Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un.

A look at some of the thorny issues:

AP

In this Wednesday, June 20, 2018, file photo, U.S. Defense Secretary Jim Mattis, center, steps away after speaking with the media at the Pentagon.

SOUTH CHINA SEA SPARRING

The South China Sea will likely be near the top of the agenda in discussions between Mattis and Chinese officials, with the U.S. issuing threats against Beijing for its continued militarization of the waters. "There are consequences that will continue to come home to roost, so to speak, with China if they don't find a way to work more collaboratively with all of the nations who have interests," Mattis said earlier this month. He said China's weapons were placed in the region for "intimidation and coercion." The Pentagon last month withdrew its invitation for China to participate in a large-scale multinational naval exercise in what it called "an initial response" to the militarization of the South China Sea.

KOREAN PENINSULA

China was seen as taking home a major win when Trump announced at the summit with Kim that the U.S. would suspend joint U.S.-South Korean war games that North Korea and China have long opposed. Both Mattis and South Korea were seen as caught off-guard by the decision. U.S. and South Korean officials now see the pledge as helping advance nuclear negotiations with North Korea. China welcomed the move, and Kim met with Chinese President Xi Jinping in Beijing last week, though no new measures toward denuclearization have been announced. Trump said last week that "total denuclearization" has "already started taking place." Mattis, however, was asked whether he had seen any sign that North Korea had begun steps toward denuclearization and replied: "I'm not aware of any. Obviously, we're at the very front end of the process."

TANGLING OVER TAIWAN

China's complaints about U.S. contacts with Taiwan have grown louder, with the U.S. seeking to increase exchanges with the self-ruled island that Beijing claims as its territory, and selling more weapons to it. Mattis will likely hear those arguments made even more forcibly after Trump this year signed the Taiwan Travel Act encouraging high-level visits between the two sides, and the Department of Defense agreed to give American contractors marketing licenses for diesel-electric submarine technology sought by Taiwan's armed forces. The U.S. government also approved a $1.4 billion arms sale to Taiwan last year, although in an effort to mollify Beijing, has been reluctant to supply everything the island's leadership wants.

TRUMP'S "SPACE FORCE" CALL

Trump's announcement last week that he was directing the Pentagon to create a new "Space Force" drew attention in China and may be among the items for discussion in Beijing. Trump framed space as a national security issue, saying he does not want "China and Russia and other countries leading us." While the U.S. has dominated in space since its 1969 moon landing, China is making strong headway, while Russia is in decline. China says it opposes the militarization of outer space, but demonstrated its growing prowess in the field in 2007 when it fired a missile that destroyed a defunct Chinese satellite, creating an enormous debris field and drawing concerns from the U.S. and others.

Japan to scrap evacuation drills for NKorean missile threat

TOKYO (AP)—Japan plans to suspend the civilian evacuation drills it started last year while North Korea was repeatedly test-firing missiles near and over Japanese islands, officials said Thursday, citing diplomatic overtures from Pyongyang.

Nine drills to prepare residents in Japan for possible missile attacks were to be held later this year.

The Cabinet Secretariat in charge of crisis management said the official announcement of the suspension was expected next week and that recent diplomatic developments meant the prospect of strikes from North Korean missiles has subsided for now.

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un promised at his summit with President Donald Trump to work toward a denuclearized Korean Peninsula. Washington has also announced that it will suspend its joint military exercises with South Korea planned for the summer.

The planned suspension surfaced Thursday after officials in Tochigi prefecture confirmed a drill there next Tuesday had been called off at the government's request. Missile drill plans in eight other prefectures, including Kagawa and Tokushima in southwestern Japan, as well as Niigata, Toyama and Ishikawa in the north, were also expected to be put on hold.

The Cabinet Secretariat stressed that the drills are suspended only as long as the tensions remain reduced. The official announcement was delayed as authorities needed more time to gain understanding from some local governments that remained wary of missile threats, officials said.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga last week told reporters that the Trump-Kim summit has significantly relieved Japan's security environment.

"Unlike last year when missiles were repeatedly test-fired, we no longer face a situation in which missiles may come flying any minute," Suga told reporters Thursday. "The (central) government cannot unilaterally decide, as some municipalities still want to hold the drills."

The government still plans to go ahead with a plan to install land-based Aegis Ashore missile interceptors. Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said North Korea still possesses hundreds of ballistic missiles, which have not been dismantled.

Japan's government started missile-specific evacuation drills last March in addition to usual earthquake and other drills, and has since conducted them in more than 20 towns around the country, including Tokyo.

In a typical drill, about 300 town residents and schoolchildren rush to school buildings to seek shelter after sirens from loudspeakers warn them of a possible missile flight and debris falling on them. They are advised to put their faces down and protect their heads.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Floods and landslides kill 7, leave 12 missing in Vietnam

HANOI, Vietnam (AP)—Flash floods and landslides triggered by heavy rains have killed at least 7 people and left 12 others missing in northern Vietnam. In the worst hit province of Lai Chau, 5 people were killed and authorities have been mobilizing forces to search for the 12 missing, the provincial government said in a statement Monday. The Vietnam Disaster Management Authority said in a statement that two people were killed in neighboring Ha Giang province when their house collapsed. Landslides have interrupted traffic in some areas, it added. Heavy rains are forecast to continue in the region for the next two days. Floods and storms kill hundreds each year in the Southeast Asian country and cause millions of dollars in damages.

Removal of North's artillery from border under discussions

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—South Korea's prime minister says the rival Koreas are discussing the relocation of North Korea's long-range artillery systems away from the tense Korean border. Lee Nak-yon said Monday the discussions are among recent steps taken by the Koreas to promote peace amid a diplomatic push to achieve denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula. North Korea has deployed an estimated 1,000 artillery pieces along the border, posing a significant threat to the Seoul, the South Korean capital. Lee's comments appear to be Seoul's first official confirmation of media reports that South Korea demanded North Korea reposition its forward-deployed artillery pieces in inter-Korean military talks this month. Seoul's Defense Ministry has denied those reports, which also speculated North Korea had likely demanded South Korea withdraw its own artillery systems from the border too.

Water, mud block rescue attempt for 12 boys inside Thai cave

BANGKOK (AP)—Rescuers are planning a second attempt Monday to try to get through a small, flooded passage inside a Thai cave to search for 12 boys and their soccer coach who entered the cave two days ago. On their first attempt at dawn, divers were unable to reach the large chamber deep inside the cave where the students might be, said Kamolchai Kotcha, an official in the forest park where the cave is in northern Thailand's Chiang Rai province. The passage to the chamber is extremely small, "flooded and covered with sand and mud," Kamolchai said. The large chamber is about 4 kilometers (2.5 miles) from the entrance of the cave that's thought is be about 6 to 8 kilometers long. The 12 boys are aged 11-15 and are believed to have entered the Tham Luang Nang Non cave with their coach late Saturday afternoon. A mother who reported her son never returned from soccer practice that day set off the search.

World

Erdogan proclaimed winner of Turkey's presidential election

ISTANBUL (AP)—Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan was proclaimed the winner early Monday of a landmark election that ushers in a government system granting the president sweeping new powers and which critics say will cement what they call a one-man rule.

The presidential vote and a parliamentary election, both held more than a year early, completed NATO-member Turkey's transition from a parliamentary system to a presidential one, a process started with a voter referendum last year.

"The nation has entrusted to me the responsibility of the presidency and the executive duty," Erdogan said in televised remarks from Istanbul after a near-complete count carried by the state-run Anadolu news agency gave him the majority needed to avoid a runoff.

The head of Turkey's Supreme Election Council, Sadi Guven, declared Erdogan the winner early Monday after 97.7 of votes had been counted. The electoral board plans to announce final official results on June 29.

Based on unofficial results, five parties passed the 10 percent support threshold required for parties to enter parliament, Guven said.

"This election's victor is democracy, this election's victory is national will," Erdogan told a cheering crowd outside his party headquarters in Ankara early Monday, adding that Turkey "will look at its future with so much more trust than it did this morning."

Earlier, cheering Erdogan supporters waving Turkish flags gathered outside his official residence in Istanbul, chanting "Here's the president, here's the commander."

"Justice has been served!" said Cihan Yigici, one of those in the crowd.

Thousands of jubilant supporters of the pro-Kurdish Peoples' Democratic Party, or HDP, also spilled into the streets of the predominantly Kurdish southeastern city of Diyarbakir after unofficial results from Anadolu showed the party surpassing the 10 percent threshold and coming in third with 11.5 percent of the parliamentary vote.

The HDP's performance was a success, particularly considering it campaigned with nine of its lawmakers, including its presidential candidate Selahattin Demirtas, and thousands of party members in jail. It says more than 350 of its election workers have been detained since April 28.

Revelers waved HDP flags and blared car horns. One party supporter, Nejdet Erke, said he had been "waiting for this emotion" since the morning.

Erdogan, 64, insisted the expanded powers of the Turkish presidency will bring prosperity and stability to the country, especially after a failed military coup attempt in 2016. A state of emergency imposed after the coup remains in place.

AP

Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, waves to supporters of his ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP) in Ankara, Turkey, early Monday, June 25, 2018.

Activists: US tells rebels in Syria not to expect support

BEIRUT (AP)—Syrian government forces advanced deeper into the southern province of Daraa Sunday under the cover of airstrikes, entering new villages amid reports that the U.S. has told rebels not to expect an American intervention to defend them from the army's offensive.

Syrian government forces have been on the offensive in eastern parts of Daraa province for the past five days in an operation that aims to reach a main border crossing point with Jordan. The push comes two months after government forces regained control of eastern rebel-held eastern suburbs of the capital Damascus that freed thousands of government soldiers for the new battle in Daraa province.

Opposition activists have been reporting for days that President Bashar Assad's government has sent some of its elite units to the south including the Republican Guards and the Tiger force that is commanded by Brig. General Suheil al-Hassan who is widely known as Nimr, Arabic for tiger.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights and Daraa-based opposition activist Osama Hourani said that the U.S. has informed rebel groups in southern Syria that Washington will not intervene in the operations to defend them against the government offensive that is ongoing under the cover of Russian airstrikes.

Two U.S. officials discounted the claim. They spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss internal deliberations.

Denying the rebels support would be a reversal from earlier pronouncements. The U.S. warned last month it would take "firm and appropriate measures" to protect a cease-fire in southern Syria if government forces move against rebels there. The region has also been a source of regional tensions between Iran and Israel in recent months.

"It is clear that since yesterday the Russians and the (Syrian) regime have been given the green light to regain control of Houran," Hourani said referring to the region that includes Daraa, the nearby region of Quneitra and parts of Sweida province. "The proof is that after the rebels received the (American) message Russian warplanes joined the battle."

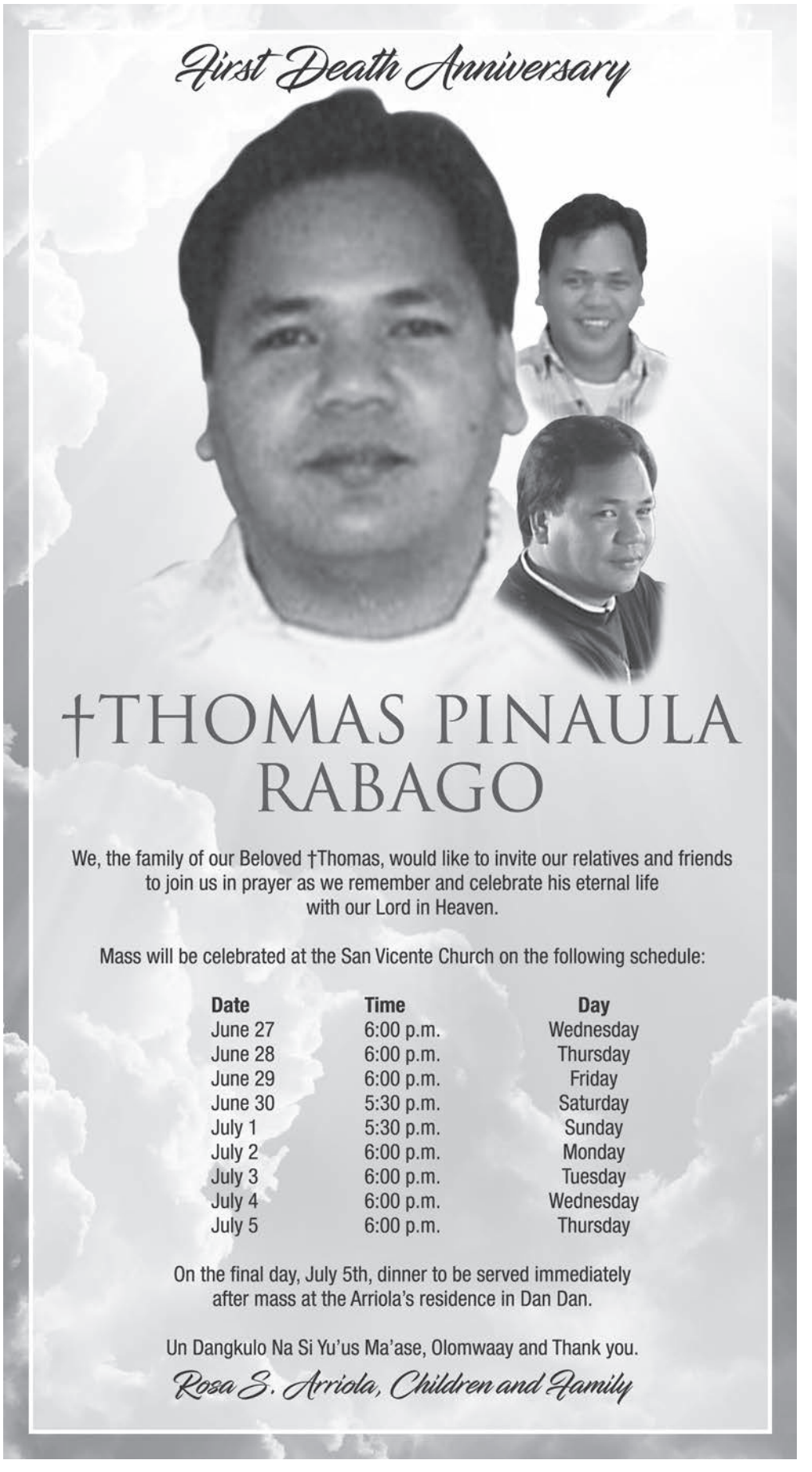
The United States, Russia, and Jordan agreed last year to include Daraa in a "de-escalation zone" and freeze the lines of conflict there. But the area has been tense following a series of recent Israeli strikes on Syrian and Iranian forces. Iran is a close ally of Assad, and its advisers are embedded with his troops.

Syrian state news agency SANA said Sunday that troops made territorial gains in al-Lujat and other areas including the village of Jadal on the eastern edge of Daraa province.

Russia's Defense Ministry said some rebels have voluntarily joined forces with Syrian government forces adding that Syrian troops repelled an attack by al-Qaida-linked fighters in Daraa.

State news agency SANA said that rebels shelled the southern government-held city of Sweida wounding three people.

The Observatory said government forces reached the rebel-stronghold of Busra al-Harir where fighting is ongoing inside the town.


First Death Anniversary
†THOMAS PINAULA RABAGO
We, the family of our Beloved †Thomas, would like to invite our relatives and friends to join us in prayer as we remember and celebrate his eternal life with our Lord in Heaven.
Mass will be celebrated at the San Vicente Church on the following schedule:
Date Time Day
June 27 6:00 p.m. Wednesday
June 28 6:00 p.m. Thursday
June 29 6:00 p.m. Friday
June 30 5:30 p.m. Saturday
July 1 5:30 p.m. Sunday
July 2 6:00 p.m. Monday
July 3 6:00 p.m. Tuesday
July 4 6:00 p.m. Wednesday
July 5 6:00 p.m. Thursday
On the final day, July 5th, dinner to be served immediately after mass at the Arriola's residence in Dan Dan.
Un Dangkulo Na Si Yu'us Ma'ase, Olomwaay and Thank you.
Rosa S. Arriola, Children and Family

Focus

AP

An asylum seeker from the Horn of Africa who did not want to be identified by his name sits in a tented camp set up by the Baobad aid group, on the outskirts of Rome, Tuesday, June 19, 2018. After dramatically blocking humanitarian group's ships from bringing yet even more migrants rescued at sea to Italian ports, Italian Interior Minister Matteo Salvini has proclaimed his next urgent mission: ridding his country of huge numbers of migrants who undertook dangerous treks through African deserts and risky voyages on smugglers' unseaworthy boats across the Mediterranean to reach their dream: a better life in Europe.

EU papers over differences after 'frank' migration talks

By RAF CASERT and LORNE COOK
ASSOCIATED PRESS

AP

European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker, right, speaks with German Chancellor Angela Merkel during an informal EU summit on migration at EU headquarters in Brussels, Sunday, June 24, 2018.

BRUSSELS (AP)—The leaders of 16 countries survived the "frank talk" of an emergency meeting on immigration and emerged with a veneer of common purpose Sunday as the European Union enters a potentially vital week for its unity.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel said the meeting produced "a lot of goodwill" to resolve differences over how to manage the refugees and economic migrants who are willing to risk their lives to reach Europe.

The leaders of several more countries joined Italy and France in endorsing the idea of setting up centers in Africa to screen potential asylum-seekers for eligibility before they set out for another continent.

The talks were "frank and open," but "we don't have any concrete consequences or conclusions," Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez said.

The prevailing honesty and benevolence on display Sunday barely lower the stakes for a full EU summit opening Thursday. Four member countries in eastern Europe refused to take part in the meeting because of demands that they take in more asylum-seekers to ease the burden elsewhere.

New Italian Premier Giuseppe Conte presented a plan that argues existing EU asylum rules are obsolete and "paradoxical." The current rules effectively mean migrants only can apply for asylum in the country where they first arrive, usually Italy or Greece.

Conte said his 10-point proposal would be a "paradigm shift" in how Europe approaches migration and that he was "decidedly satisfied" with the outcome of Sunday's meeting.

"We have given the right direction for the debate underway. We'll see each other Thursday," he said.

Merkel and French President Emmanuel Macron held out little hope they would be able to gather all 28 nations behind a single immigration plan at the upcoming summit.

Merkel, who is battling a domestic political crisis with her coalition partners over migration, said she was seeking "bilateral and trilateral" deals to cope with short-term migration pressures.

EU nations, she said, have to see "how can we help each other without always having to wait for all 28, but by thinking what's important to whom."

The idea of pre-screening Europe-bound asylum-seekers in North Africa gained support from several leaders amid the escalating tensions that threaten to undermine EU cohesion.

Paradoxically, the EU's immigration policies are receiving renewed attention as the number of newcomers reaching Europe has dropped significantly.

The U.N.'s refugee agency forecasts that around 80,000 people will arrive to Europe by sea in 2018 if current trends continue—but the EU's political turmoil over the topic has soared.

Anti-migrant parties—and governments in Hungary and Italy—have been fomenting public fears of foreigners and have won support doing so.

"Some are trying to use the situation in Europe to create political tension and to play with fear," French President Emmanuel Macron said. "We must not give in. When someone has the right to protection and asylum, we should grant it."

A failure to find agreement could threaten the EU's border-free travel area, one of the biggest accomplishments of the bloc's 60-year history.

Despite the different perspectives, Belgian Prime Minister Charles Michel said, "progress is possible on Thursday."

Encouraged by a deal with Turkey that has slashed the number of people arriving from there by 97 percent since 2015, the EU appeared ready to greenlight plans to set up screening centers in Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Morocco, Niger and Tunisia.

Plans to set up migrant reception centers in Albania are also under discussion.

Macron said "the method that we are going to adopt" would involve "working together vis-a-vis the countries of transit and origin outside the European Union."

He mentioned Libya—the main jumping off point for countries bound for Europe—other African countries and the Balkans.

Noting that migrant arrivals have dropped significantly, Macron said: "it's a political crisis that Europe and the European Union is mostly living today."

Meanwhile, Spain's Sanchez urged his EU partners to help Spain deal with a growing number of arrivals across the Mediterranean Sea.

The UNHCR says around 40,000 people have arrived in Europe by sea so far this year, some 16,000 in Italy, 12,000 in Greece and 12,000 in Spain.

As with everything linked to migration in Europe, even the meeting in Brussels did not please everybody. Four eastern EU countries—the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia—refused to attend and reject taking in migrants in general.

Overdrive

Mitsubishi shows signs of life with 2018 Eclipse Cross

By ROBERT DUFFER
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Back when I was learning how to drive and presidential scandals focused on interns with blue dresses, Mitsubishi sold sports coupes in the United States. My dad bought into the fastest growing car company of the '90s with a 195-horsepower Mitsubishi Eclipse with a five-speed manual. It might have been an Eagle Talon. Same difference.

When the all-new 2018 Mitsubishi Eclipse Cross showed up in my driveway, there was what shrinks call cognitive dissonance. Memories of a manual sports coupe clashed with a crossover with more safety aids than a preschool. A sign of the times, to be sure.

Aside from the budget-or-bust Mirage, Mitsubishi only sells crossovers in the U.S. now. The strategy has resulted in year-over-year sales growth since 2012. Other automakers are ditching cars for crossovers too. It's hard to say the comparatively tiny Japanese brand is influencing the market, but the diamond star is currently the only automaker offering a vehicle at the convergence of two unstoppable trends in the plug-in hybrid midsize SUV Mitsubishi Outlander PHEV.

The Eclipse Cross is the most important vehicle for the brand's survival and growth in the U.S. It is a compact crossover competing with the Nissan Rogue, Toyota RAV4, Honda CR-V and so many others in America's best-selling segment.

The Eclipse Cross is not sporty like its namesake but is very well-appointed at a very good price. The tester came with all-wheel drive, power folding side mirrors, adaptive cruise control, Apple CarPlay and all the latest modern touches for just over $31,000 in top SEL trim. That's at least a few thousand less than the competition. Undercutting the competition is a strategy that has worked well with the Outlander too.

It has the edgy angularity of the latest crop of Japanese crossovers, with a sloping rear and rising beltline that gives it a pinched end. There's an integrated roof spoiler but then things get odd; to improve rear visibility, or to stand out in a cookie-cutter class, there is another spoilerlike bar that splits the rear windshield, not unlike the Toyota Prius. That bar houses the LED taillights and the third safety light. It's different. It made many people ask about the brand and model, with mixed remarks on the overall design.

The parade of new crossovers and utility vehicles marched on throughout auto show season, with dozens or new and redesigned crossovers set to hit dealer lots in mid- to late-2018 for model year 2019. The differences are in the details.

From the inside the split rear glass is annoying in the rear view mirror. Because the rear roofline is so tapered, I'm not sure how else Mitsubishi could have increased visibility. It's cramped to look out, but not cramped to sit in for rear seat passengers or for cargo. This class is all about compromise.

The soft touch black surfaces contrast nicely with the chromelike trim pieces for an upscale feel. The center console houses a touch pad to control the 7-inch display screen. Touch pads have proven sensitive to use while driving, but the larger display on Apple CarPlay and Android Auto simplify the process. The steering wheel controls are basic, which is good, but then there's another button behind the steering wheel to scroll through the vehicle info display, which is mildly inconvenient.

The 152-horsepower turbocharged four-cylinder engine is new. It's not powerful but it delivers enough burst to make passing moves with confidence. Power is transmitted to all wheels via a continuously variable transmission that has paddle shifters, which was another source of dissonance for my shrink. You can make it feel like you're shifting gears, but the system will override you pretty regularly.

The ride is on the louder side on the highway, no doubt due in part to the doors and the panoramic sunroof (part of the $2,500 touring package with advanced driver assistance systems such as forward collision and lane departure warnings).

NUTS & BOLTS

2018 Mitsubishi Eclipse Cross SEL at a glance

- **Vehicle type:** Compact crossover
- **Base price:** $27,895 (SEL trim)
- **As tested:** $31,315 (excluding $995 destination)
- **Mpg:** 25 city, 26 highway
- **Engine:** 152-horsepower 1.5-liter turbo four-cylinder
- **Transmission:** CVT with "eight-step sport mode"
- **Parting shot:** Budget price with top-level feel.

TNS

The 2018 Mitsubishi Eclipse Cross is a compact crossover powered by a 152-horsepower 1.5-liter turbo four-cylinder engine wiht a continuously variable transmission in all-wheel drive.

We, the family of

Maria Manahane Muna Sablan

loving known as "Tan Maria (Iya) Tedegua"

Would like to extend our most heartfelt appreciation to our many relatives and friends for their thoughtful prayers, comforting words and support during our time of sorrow and need.

Our deepest appreciation to the caregivers, nurses and doctors for your untiring care; to Bishop Ryan, Father Isaac, Father James and members of the clergy for your prayers and services; and to the Olomwaay Family Choir, Herman's Bakery, Borja Funeral Home and Rita Sablan, our techa for all your assistance.

To all those who have helped us in one way or another, your presence, compassion and generosity will aways be remembered.

Sen Dangkulu na Si Yu'us Ma'ase para todos I humasu ham para I finattyon miyu yan lokkue gi tinayuyut miyu. Ginen I Familia

Our Nang's 18th day finakpo will be celebrated on Friday, June 29th at 6:00am Mass at Mt. Carmel Cathedral.

Thank you & Dangkulo na si Yu'us Ma'ase,

The Family

Life & Style

Anita Baker, H.E.R., Meek Mill shine at BET Awards

By MESFIN FEKADU
AP MUSIC WRITER

Anita Baker accepts the lifetime achievement award at the BET Awards at the Microsoft Theater on Sunday, June 24, 2018, in Los Angeles. AP

Legendary singer Anita Baker was honored at the BET Awards with impressive performances that nearly brought the eight-time Grammy winner to tears.

Baker earned the Lifetime Achievement Award on Sunday at the Microsoft Theater in Los Angeles, where Ledisi, Marsha Ambrosius and Yolanda Adams—in superior form—sang the singer's well-known hits onstage.

The 60-year-old, who dominated the R&B charts from the early '80s to mid-90s with smooth songs like "Sweet Love" and "Giving You the Best That I Got," used her speech to encourage the artists in the room to keep music alive.

"I would ask that the music be allowed to play, that singers are allowed to sing, and rappers are allowed to rap, and poets are allowed to rhyme," Baker said.

Rising singer H.E.R. had the night's best performance, as she sang the R&B hit "Focus," played the electric guitar like a rock star and sang softly during the sweet love song "Best Part," where she was joined by Daniel Caesar.

Rapper Meek Mill, who was released from prison in April, also captivated the audience with his performance: He rapped the song "Stay Woke" on a stage transformed into a street corner, featuring hustlers, children and police officers. A mother screams as her child is shot during the powerful performance, and an officer lays an American flag over the body.

Meek Mill also made a statement by wearing a hoodie featuring the face of XXXTentacion, the 20-year-old rapper-singer who died after being shot last week.

"We can't get used to these types of things. We're too used to young people getting killed," host Jamie Foxx said when speaking about XXXTentacion later in the show.

The Oscar winner told the audience to "try to sneak a message in" their music.

"We got to figure something out," he said.

Snoop Dogg celebrated 25 years in music, performing the classic songs "What's My Name" and "Next Episode." The rapper also performed songs from his recently released gospel album this year, wearing a choir robe on a stage that looked like a church.

Childish Gambino, whose song and music video "This Is America" tackles racism and gun violence and became a viral hit last month, gave a short, impromptu performance of the song when Foxx brought him onstage.

"Everybody begged me to do a joke about that song. I said that song should not be joked about," Foxx said.

Foxx kicked off the show rejoicing in the uber success of "Black Panther," name-dropping the records the film has broken and even pulling Michael B. Jordan onstage.

'Jurassic World' sequel stomps its way to $150 million debut

NEW YORK (AP)—The dinosaurs still rule the box office.

"Jurassic World: Fallen Kingdom" surpassed expectations to open with $150 million in ticket sales in U.S. and Canada theaters over the weekend, according to studio estimates Sunday. While that total didn't approach the record-breaking $208.8 million debut of 2015's "Jurassic World," it proved the 25-year-old franchise still roars loudly among moviegoers.

It also gave Hollywood its first back-to-back $100 million-plus openings in a non-holiday period. After opening with $182.7 million last week, Pixar's acclaimed sequel "Incredibles 2" slid 56 percent in its second week, with an $80.9 million haul.

The combined firepower of "Fallen Kingdom" and "Incredibles 2" fueled $280 million in total ticket sales, making it Hollywood's fourth-biggest overall weekend ever, not accounting for inflation. Business was roughly double what it was the same June weekend last year, according to comScore.

"The normal course of box office is that the two films would cannibalize each other's box office in some way," said Paul Dergarabedian, senior media analyst for comScore. "This weekend proves that if you have two incredibly appealing movies in the marketplace at the same time, the marketplace will expand. The year-to-date box office jumped 2.5 percent in one weekend, from 6 percent to 8.5 percent."

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to comScore. Where available, the latest international numbers for Friday through Sunday also are included. Final domestic figures will be released Monday.

1. "**Jurassic World: Fallen Kingdom**," $150 million *($106.7 million international).*
2. "**Incredibles 2**," $80.9 million *($56.8 million international).*
3. "**Ocean's 8**," $11.7 million *($26.9 million international).*
4. "**Tag**," $8.2 million.
5. "**Solo: A Star Wars Story**," $4 million *($2.6 million international).*
6. "**Deadpool 2**," $5.3 million *($5.3 million international).*
7. "**Hereditary**," $3.8 million *($3.8 million international).*
8. "**Superfly**," $3.4 million.
9. "**Avengers: Infinity War**," $2.5 million *($1.4 million international).*
10. "**Won't You Be My Neighbor**," $1.9 million.

—

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at international theaters (excluding the U.S. and Canada), according to comScore:

1. "**Jurassic World: Fallen Kingdom**," $106.7 million.
2. "**Incredibles 2**," $56.8 million.
3. "**Ocean's 8**," $26.9 million.
4. "**Lobster Cop**," $6.7 million
5. "**Deadpool 2**," $5.3 million.
6. "**The Accidental Detective 2**," $5.3 million.
7. "**Hereditary**," $3.8 million.
8. "**The Way of the Bug**," $3.6 million.
9. "Solo: A Star Wars Story," $2.6 million.
10. "A Quiet Place," $1.7 million.

"Jurassic World: Fallen Kingdom" has already tallied hundreds of millions in overseas ticket sales over the past two weeks. Its worldwide total already stands at $711.5 million.

The film, starring Chris Pratt and Dallas Bryce Howard, moves the action away from an isolated tropical island. In "Fallen Kingdom," directed by J.A. Bayona, the dinosaurs are again threatened with extinction because of a soon-to-explode volcano. But they are trapped by a band of mercenaries, a plot intended to mirror real-life animal poaching .

Like 2015's "Jurassic World," "Fallen Kingdom" was able to shrug off mediocre reviews—something that many other franchises have struggled to do lately. It sits at just 50 percent fresh on Rotten Tomatoes but received an A-minus CinemaScore from audiences.

Universal Pictures, which is planning a third "Jurassic World" film, heavily promoted the $170 million production. Drawing audiences equally young and old, male and female, and from a diverse array of ethnicities, "Fallen Kingdom" played like a classic crowd-pleaser.

"We're seeing exit polls that indicate all quadrants came out to see this movie," said Jim Orr, Universal's distribution chief. "The majority of the audience was under 25. Obviously, we're playing very broadly, and to families overall, and so thus the result at the very high end of our expectations."

Roseanne Barr: I made myself a hate magnet

NEW YORK (AP)—In an emotional interview, Roseanne Barr said she definitely feels remorse for the racist tweet that prompted ABC to cancel the revival of "Roseanne."

Barr recorded a podcast interview with her longtime friend, Rabbi Shmuley Boteach, who on Sunday published an edited transcript and recording of the conversation. In the interview, Barr claims she "never would have wittingly called any black person . a monkey."

Barr spoke through tears for much of the interview, her first since the cancellation of "Roseanne." She also lamented that some people don't accept her explanation blaming the sleep drug Ambien for a tweet that likened former Obama adviser Valerie Jarrett to a person created by the Muslim Brotherhood and "Planet of the Apes."

"I said to God, 'I am willing to accept whatever consequences this brings because I know I've done wrong. I'm going to accept what the consequences are,' and I do, and I have,'" Barr said. "But they don't ever stop. They don't accept my apology, or explanation. And I've made myself a hate magnet. And as a Jew, it's just horrible. It's horrible."

Barr said of her tweet that she "didn't mean what they think I meant."

"But I have to face that it hurt people," Barr said. "When you hurt people even unwillingly there's no excuse. I don't want to run off and blather on with excuses. But I apologize to anyone who thought, or felt offended and who thought that I meant something that I, in fact, did not mean. It was my own ignorance, and there's no excuse for that ignorance."

ABC on Thursday announced it will this fall air a 10-episode Conner family sitcom without Barr in it. In a statement issued by the show's producer, Barr said she agreed to the settlement to save the jobs of 200 cast and crew members.

ABC swiftly axed "Roseanne" last month after Barr's tweet. ABC Entertainment President Channing Dungey said it was "abhorrent, repugnant and inconsistent with our values."

Though "Roseanne" prompted outrage for jokes about minority characters and an episode some called Islamophobic, it was watched by an enormous television audience. The first episode in March was seen by more than 25 million people.

"I've lost everything," Barr said on the podcast. "And I regretted it before I lost everything."

Han Solo's Blaster from 'Return of the Jedi' tops auction

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Han Solo's Blaster from the "Return of the Jedi" has sold for $550,000 at a Las Vegas auction.

Julien's Auctions says Ripley's Believe It or Not bought the item Saturday.

The sci-fi weapon was the top-selling item at the Hollywood Legends auction.

AP

This photo provided by Julien's Auctions shows character Han Solo's BlasTech DL-44 blaster from the Star Wars trilogy film "Return of the Jedi" (Lucasfilm, 1983) that sold for $550,000 at Julien's Auctions Hollywood Legends auction at Planet Hollywood Resort & Casino, in Las Vegas, on Saturday, June 23, 2018.

The blaster was part of a collection from the U.S. art director on the film, James L. Schoppe. An Imperial Scout Trooper Blaster from the movie sold for $90,625.

Julien's says other items at the auction included a full Superman III costume worn by actor Christopher Reeve. It sold for $200,000, well over its original estimate.

A black wool dress worn by Marilyn Monroe went for $50,000 to benefit the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Foundation.

The auction was held at Planet Hollywood casino-resort.

Association removes Laura Ingalls Wilder's name from a book award

CHICAGO (AP)—A division of the American Library Association has voted to remove Laura Ingalls Wilder's name from a major children's book award over concerns with how the early-to-mid 20th century author portrayed blacks and Native Americans.

The Association for Library Service to Children's board made the unanimous decision Saturday at a meeting in New Orleans. The name has been changed to the Children's Literature Legacy Award.

The association says the work of Wilder—best known for her "Little House on the Prairie" novels—"includes expressions of stereotypical attitudes inconsistent with ALSC's core values."

The first award was given to Wilder in 1954. The ALSC says Wilder's work continues to be published and read but her "legacy is complex" and "not universally embraced."

The American Library Association is based in Chicago.

Actress Cynthia Nixon says son has come out as transgender

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP) — Actress and New York gubernatorial candidate Cynthia Nixon has announced that her oldest child has come out as transgender.

Nixon

The former "Sex and the City" star posted the announcement on her Instagram account on Friday to mark the 14th annual Trans Day of Action. Her 21-year-old son Samuel Joseph Mozes, who goes by the nickname Seph, originally was named Samantha.

Seph is the child of Nixon and former partner Danny Mozes. Nixon also has a 15-year-old son with Mozes and a 7-year-old son with her wife, Christine Marinoni.

Nixon accompanied Friday's announcement with an Instagram photo of herself with her son in his cap and gown at his graduation earlier this month from the University of Chicago.

Nixon is challenging Gov. Andrew Cuomo in New York's Democratic primary for governor.

US prosecutors cancel Stormy Daniels meeting in Cohen probe

By MICHAEL BALSAMO and CATHERINE LUCEY
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Porn actress Stormy Daniels was scheduled to meet with federal prosecutors in New York on Monday as part of their investigation into President Donald Trump's longtime personal attorney, but the meeting was abruptly cancelled late Sunday after it was reported by news organizations, her attorney said.

Daniels, whose real name is Stephanie Clifford, was supposed to meet with prosecutors from the U.S. attorney's office in Manhattan in preparation for a possible grand jury appearance as they work to assemble a case against Trump's longtime personal lawyer, Michael Cohen.

But after several news organizations, including The Associated Press, reported on the meeting, two prosecutors called Daniels' lawyer, Michael Avenatti, and told him that they were concerned about media attention in the case, he said.

"I was shocked at that response," Avenatti said.

Avenatti offered to move the meeting to another location and reiterated that Daniels — who he says has been cooperating with prosecutors for months — was ready to go forward with the meeting, but they called back to cancel it, he said. The meeting has not been rescheduled and prosecutors offered no other explanation for the cancellation, he said.

Daniels has said she had sex with Trump in 2006 when he was married, which Trump has denied. As part of their investigation into Cohen, prosecutors have been examining the $130,000 payment that was made to Daniels as part of a confidentiality agreement days before the 2016 presidential election.

"We believe canceling the meeting because the press has now caught wind of it is ridiculous," Avenatti wrote in an email to Assistant U.S. Attorney Nicolas Roos. "We do not think it was any secret that at some point you were going to meet with my client."

DJ Calvin Harris stoked by Harry Kane acknowledgment of song

NIZHNY NOVGOROD, Russia (AP)—Harry Kane led England into the round of 16 at the World Cup then gave a nod to Scottish DJ Calvin Harris.

Kane was asked after England's 6-1 victory over Panama to pick a song to play on a Brazilian program as reward for his hat trick in the victory. Caught off guard by the request, the striker mulled the question from the Brazilian reporter.

"I'll go 'One Kiss' by Calvin Harris and Dua Lipa," he offered Sunday.

Dua Lipa is British, and both she and Harris were thrilled with Kane's selection.

"Yes I'm Scottish but I don't care the legend Harry Kane picked our song," Harris posted on Twitter with a clip from Kane's post-match news conference.

Dua Lipa acknowledged the shout-out by reposting a tweet about Kane's selection.

Fans of both the soccer player and the artists also flooded social media supporting Kane's song choice.

Medical privacy rules stymie 'dad' to girlfriend's children

DEAR ABBY: I am 32 and in a relationship with a 31-year-old single mother. Her son, "Steven," is 7. Her daughter, "Jessica," is 15.

I am a stay-at-home dad. Both kids refer to me as "Dad," as I have been a part of Steven's life more than his (incarcerated) dad has ever been. Because I am a stay-at-home dad, this means I take Steven to various professional appointments, doctors, including a psychiatrist for ADHD, the dentist and various sports activities.

I was informed three weeks ago Jessica is pregnant. When I take our boy for doctor's visits, they always want guarantor information, and I always sign. But after a recent checkup of his, I called for results and was outright lied to—"We don't have the results back"—and Jessica's doctor said they can't release any information to me.

Abby, I'm in this for the long haul. If doctors will let me sign to pay their medical expenses but I can't have the results, what can I do?

STAY-AT-HOME-DAD

DEAR "DAD": A guarantor is different from a legal guardian or parent. Have their mother call the doctors and request the information so she can share it with you. And if you haven't suggested to Jessica's mother that her daughter should be put on long-acting birth control, I think the time has come.

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I recently moved into our dream home and invited my family over to see it. My sister noticed that the house had been designed to be handicapped accessible. We confirmed that it had been built by an elderly couple. The doors and walkways are larger than normal, there are handrails in the bathroom, a seat in the shower, etc. She went on to say that we shouldn't have purchased the house because we were "taking it from someone who may have needed it." Then she compared us to someone who parks in a handicap parking space without a permit.

The thought had never occurred to me. I loved the openness of the floor plan; it was a huge selling point for me. The house is within walking distance of my work and had been on the market for two years. The sellers were thrilled to have someone finally buy it. The community has been nothing but welcoming to us and seems glad to have a nice family move into a home that was built by much-loved neighbors. Should we have passed on it and continued our search?

DREAM HOME OWNER IN KANSAS

DEAR OWNER: Of course not! The house served the needs of the couple who built it. Now it is yours and doing the same for you and your family. Enjoy it! And the next time your jealous sister brings up the subject -- we both know she will -- hand her an antacid tablet and talk about something else.

DEAR ABBY: I have a friend who I suspect has a mental problem. I wonder if it may be a disease of some kind. No matter what I talk about -- what I've done, who I know or what I have—she one-ups me by saying she has done or had the same thing. It really grates on my nerves. Do you think it's a habit or a disease?

OUTDONE IN WASHINGTON

DEAR OUTDONE: It's not a disease, but an obnoxious habit. The "cure" may be to tell the woman how what she's doing makes you feel. The result will be that she either stops trying to top you or ends the friendship. Either one will be a relief.

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

DEAR ABBY

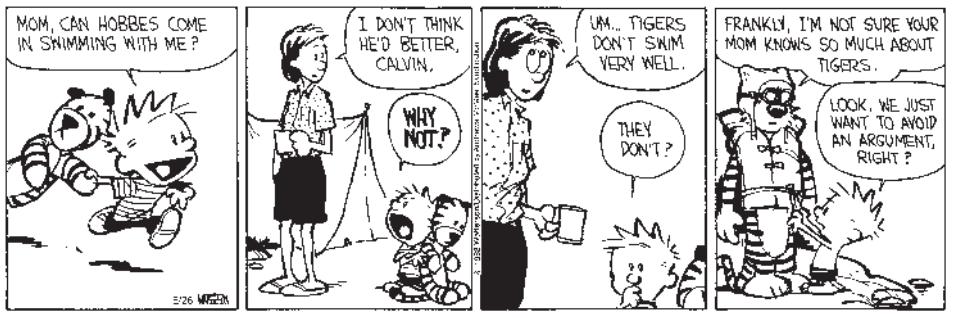
By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

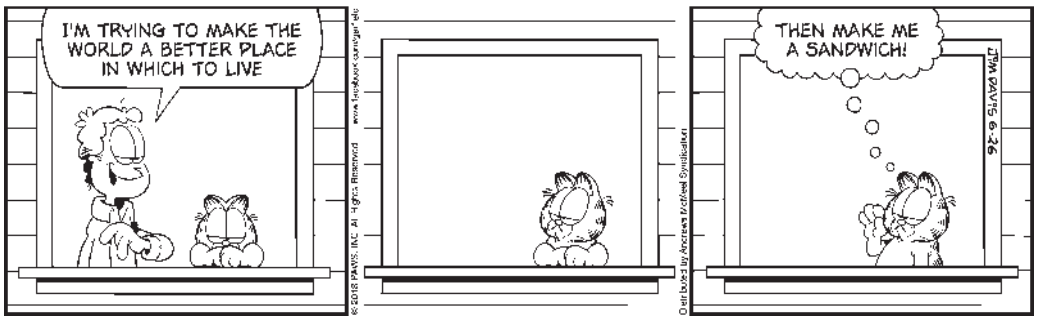
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


MOM, CAN HOBBES COME IN SWIMMING WITH ME?
I DON'T THINK HE'D BETTER, CALVIN.
WHY NOT?
UM... TIGERS DON'T SWIM VERY WELL.
THEY DON'T?
FRANKLY, I'M NOT SURE YOUR MOM KNOWS SO MUCH ABOUT TIGERS.
LOOK, WE JUST WANT TO AVOID AN ARGUMENT, RIGHT?

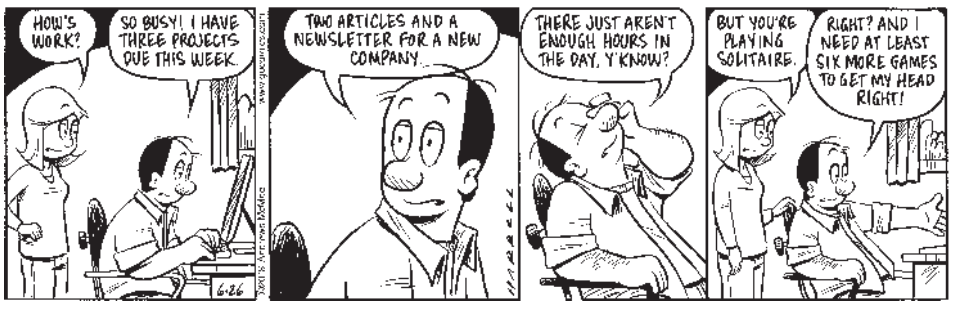
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



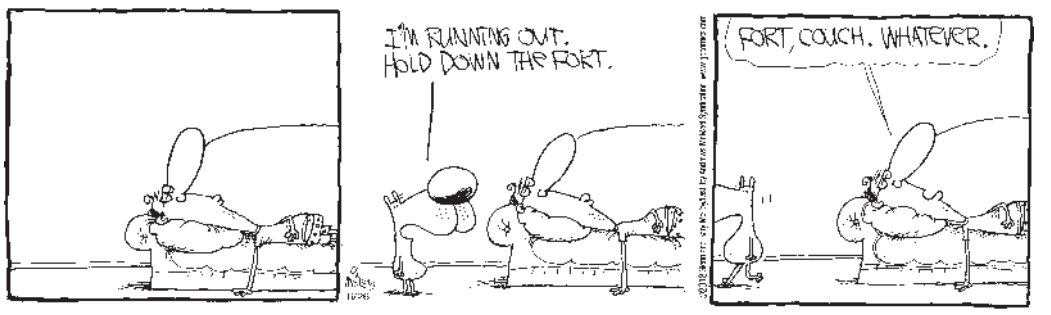
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


HOW'S WORK?
SO BUSY! I HAVE THREE PROJECTS DUE THIS WEEK.
TWO ARTICLES AND A NEWSLETTER FOR A NEW COMPANY.
THERE JUST AREN'T ENOUGH HOURS IN THE DAY, Y'KNOW?
BUT YOU'RE PLAYING SOLITAIRE.
RIGHT? AND I NEED AT LEAST SIX MORE GAMES TO GET MY HEAD RIGHT!

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

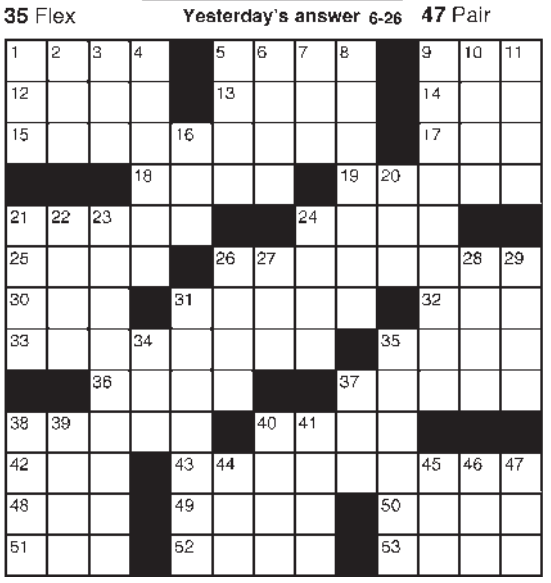
ACROSS
1 Vend
5 Utah ski resort
9 Enthusiast
12 Entreaty
13 Joel or Ethan of Hollywood
14 I love (Lat.)
15 Tennis infraction
17 Refusals
18 Nullify
19 Madcap
21 Michael Caine title role
24 Depend (on)
25 Old Italian money
26 Law enforcers in Westerns
30 Six, in Sicily
31 Rascal
32 Carnival city
33 Eggs order
35 Flex
36 Consider
37 Actions
38 Jazz phrases
40 Mediocre grades
42 "Exodus" hero
43 School cafeteria melee
48 Dogtag wearers (Abbr.)
49 Teeny bit
50 Sketch
51 Cigar residue
52 Not us
53 Thus

DOWN
1 UV ray-blocking stat
2 "Evil Woman" band
3 Zodiac cat
4 Riga's land
5 "Superfood" berry
6 Stentorian
7 — Aviv
8 Belgian port city
9 Unencumbered
10 Out of control
11 Inquisitive
16 Nemesis
20 "The Greatest"
21 Too
22 Actor Schreiber
23 Battered seafood entree
24 — Martin (cognac)
26 Con job
27 Possesses
28 Locate
29 Lays down the lawn
31 Considers appropriate
34 Game official
35 Abutting
37 Dict. info
38 Sitar music
39 Rainbow
40 Doves' home
41 Dutch cheese
44 Reaction to fireworks
45 Dog's warning
46 Witch
47 Pair

Solution time: 22 mins.

S	H	O	O	■	T	A	P	■	C	A	S	E
I	A	T	M	A	K	F	R	■	A	T	■	T
A	L	B	A	C	O	R	E	■	R	O	M	O
■	■	■	H	I	S	■	M	A	U	P	■	N
O	C	I	A	D	■	H	I	P	S	■	■	■
B	A	R	S	■	E	Y	E	S	O	R	E	■
I	V	E	■	A	N	D	R	E	■	O	A	R
■	E	X	F	L	O	R	E	■	L	A	R	A
■	■	■	H	O	R	A	■	C	O	M	P	H
E	S	T	E	E	M	■	E	D	U	■	■	■
C	O	I	N	■	O	M	N	I	V	O	R	E
H	A	■	O	■	U	N	U	E	H	P	A	H
O	R	E	M	■	S	O	S	■	E	T	T	A

Yesterday's answer 6-26



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Ariana Grande, 25; Ryan Tedder, 39; Derek Jeter, 44; Chris O'Donnell, 48.

Happy Birthday: Don't limit what you can do. If you want to make your mark, no matter how big or small, having a stick-to-it attitude will help you complete your journey. The best way to move forward is to have a clean slate to work with. Don't underestimate what you are capable of doing. Your numbers are 6, 13, 20, 29, 31, 33, 46.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Don't let emotional manipulation rule you. Follow what you feel is the best route for yourself, regardless of what anyone else is trying to coax you to do. Trust in yourself and what you feel comfortable doing. ✪✪✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Alter your life for the right reason. Don't let anger or stubbornness cause you to walk away from one situation and into another. You are better off sitting tight, observing and seeing what develops before making a decision. ✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Pick up the pace and take an active role in making a difference to your surroundings. Moving things around or changing your routine to better fit your lifestyle will help you accomplish more and feel better about future prospects. ✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Avoid loss by limiting your investments. If you follow someone else, you'll have regrets. Channel your energy into whatever benefits you most. A challenge should be looked at carefully. Don't take on more than you can afford or handle. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Pamper yourself. Make plans with your kids, your lover or a colleague who shares your favorite pastimes. You'll have a tendency to overdo it, so set guidelines regarding costs before you head out. Preparation will be essential. ✪✪✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Find out the truth before making a decision. Acting prematurely will result in emotional stress. Nurture important relationships and plan your day carefully. Having a plan in place will help you avoid being led astray by someone trying to manipulate you. ✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Don't stop when you should be moving forward and taking care of business. Someone will complain if you aren't specific about your duties or what your expectations are. Cover every angle and put more effort into everything you do. ✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Let your creative imagination run wild. You will discover something about yourself that will help you draw a line between desire and indulgence. Choose your battles wisely and concentrate on discipline and steady progress. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Look back and consider your mistakes as well as your victories. You will find a way to cut out the negativity in your life that is a constant deterrent to reaching your goals. A change will do you good. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* See past any negativity you are facing; strive to put what you want to achieve in place. A change will do you good as long as it's within the limits of what's acceptable. Play to win, but do so fairly. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Get involved in something that moves you. Being a part of something you believe in will help you overcome the daily temptations that lead you down difficult paths. Physical and emotional health and fitness should be your preferences. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Don't let your emotions get in the way of a good thing. Not getting along with the people you need in your life will lead to disappointment. Find a way to make whatever situation you face work for everyone involved. ✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are curious, adaptable and determined. You are imaginative and intuitive.

To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

				4			3	
			8		5			
4		7			6			
	2		7		9		5	8
6		9				7		2
3	7		4		2		1	
			5			9		6
			3		8			
	5			1				

Difficulty Level ★★ 6/26

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

2	3	8	6	5	4	9	1	7
9	5	7	2	8	1	6	4	3
1	4	6	9	7	3	2	5	8
7	6	9	5	4	8	3	2	1
8	1	3	7	2	6	4	9	5
5	2	4	3	1	9	7	8	6
3	8	2	4	6	5	1	7	9
4	9	1	8	3	7	5	6	2
6	7	5	1	9	2	8	3	4

Difficulty Level ★ 6/25

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

THRIFT SHOPS **Solution: 6 letters**

E	L	B	I	T	C	E	L	L	O	C	W	O	R	N
P	D	E	N	W	O	E	R	P	S	O	L	D	S	U
S	S	A	C	I	N	O	R	T	C	E	L	E	E	S
R	M	E	R	C	H	A	N	D	I	S	E	R	I	E
E	T	E	M	T	(H)	E	T	A	N	O	D	O	R	D
T	S	U	L	(A)	Y	T	S	U	D	E	A	T	O	E
U	O	L	(T)	A	G	R	D	N	H	F	N	S	S	L
P	C	A	A	F	S	I	A	S	U	O	T	E	S	C
M	O	V	I	E	S	H	I	R	Q	O	I	R	E	Y
O	I	L	I	C	D	B	N	U	R	T	Q	A	C	C
C	M	T	O	N	R	I	A	C	E	W	U	R	C	E
S	E	U	O	U	T	L	E	T	L	E	E	T	A	R
M	N	C	F	U	I	A	E	S	I	A	R	P	P	A
T	E	E	R	T	D	E	G	A	C	R	E	D	I	T
S	R	E	Y	H	O	U	S	E	H	O	L	D	E	S

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Yesterday's Answer: Cup

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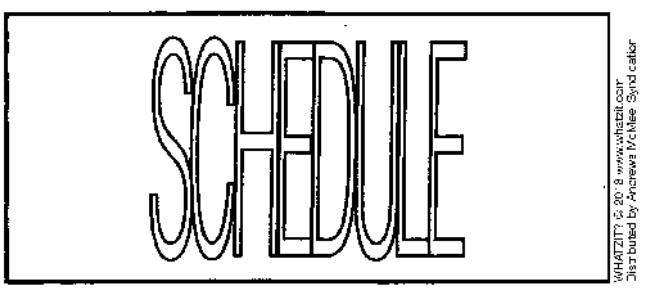

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Find today's solution in classified section

Watson shoots 63 to rally for 3rd Travelers title

CROMWELL, Conn. (AP)—Bubba Watson says TPC River Highlands feels like home. It certainly was a comfortable place again this week.

Watson overcame a six-stroke deficit Sunday to win his third Travelers Championship title, shooting a 7-under 63 for a three-stroke victory.

The left-hander became the first three-time winner on the PGA Tour this season and pulled within one of Billy Casper's tournament record of four victories.

He finished at 17-under 263. Third-round leader Paul Casey, Stewart Cink, Beau Hossler and J.B. Holmes tied for second. Casey shot 72, Cink 62, Hossler 66 and Holmes 67.

Watson also came from six back to win the 2010 event for his first tour title and beat Casey in a playoff in 2015.

"I feel like this is my home course," Watson said. "As soon as they put the schedule up, I sign up for this. I want to come back here. This means so much, not only from the golf side of it, but from the family side. My dad, it was the only time he got to see me win (in 2010). He got to see me qualify for the Ryder Cup at this event. So all these things just mean so much to my family."

During the victory ceremony, Watson's adopted children—6-year-old son Caleb and 3-year-old daughter Dakota—received small trophies of their own.

AP

Bubba Watson tees off on the 18th hole during the final round of the Travelers Championship golf tournament, Sunday, June 24, 2018, in Cromwell, Conn. Watson won the tournament.

Watson shot a 33 on the front nine, but really got it going on the back, with five birdies. He tied Casey at 16-under par by getting up and down from the bunker for a birdie on the course's signature 15th hole.

Still tied on the par-4 18th, Watson hit his tee shot 366 yards, then pitched inside 3 feet, giving caddie Ted Scott a big high-five before taking the lead with the putt.

"Hitting some of those shots, especially the shot on 18, downwind, it was very difficult, but somehow pulling it off" Watson said. "And that's what we all try to do on Sundays is pull off the amazing shot."

Casey, who shot 65, 67 and 62 to lead the field by four shots coming into Sunday, birdied his opening hole. But he gave that back on the fifth and had back-to-back bogeys on 16 and 17 to end any chance he had of catching Watson.

The Englishman has finished in the top 20 in eight of his last nine tournaments. He was second here during his first visit in 2015, came in 17th a year later and had a fifth-place finish in Cromwell a year ago.

"There was a lot of fight in there," Casey said. "But, I fought my golf swing all day as you can see coming down the last couple of holes."

Watson also won at Rivera in Los Angeles in February and the World Golf Championships-Match Play in Austin, Texas, in March. He earned $1.26 million for his 12th career victory.

Cink tied the best round of the week with a 62 on Sunday. The two-time Travelers Champion came out blazing, opening with three straight birdies and putting up a 29 on the front nine. He was 7-under through 10 and acknowledged thinking about a sub-60 round after making birdie on the 15th.

"I knew that I needed three birdies to shoot 59. But quickly, I also remembered that the golf tournament was on the line and it would mean a lot more to me to win the Travelers Championship than to shoot a 59."

He bogeyed 16, but finished the round with his 10th birdie.

Defending champion Jordan Spieth, who was tied for the lead after the opening round, shot a 69 to finish at 4 under. There hasn't been a repeat champion in Cromwell since Phil Mickelson in 2001 and 2002. Spieth said he was originally planning to take time off until he defends his title at the British Open, but may re-evaluate that as he works on his game.

U.S. Open champion Brooks Koepka shot a 65 to tie for 19th at 9 under. He said his top priority right now is rest, but said that won't come until after he attends a bachelor party for his best friend next week.

Dodgers hit 7 homers in win over Mets

NEW YORK (AP)—Justin Turner hit Los Angeles' seventh home run of the game, a go-ahead drive in the 11th inning that lifted the Dodgers over the New York Mets 8-7 on Sunday.

Cody Bellinger and Kike Hernandez each homered twice as the Dodgers beat the Mets for the 12th straight time dating to 2016. Max Muncy and Joc Pederson also connected for Los Angeles. Hernandez and Muncy led off the game with back-to-back shots.

The Mets matched a team record for the most homers allowed in a game, and lost their sixth in a row overall.

Turner, a former Met, homered off Chris Flexen (0-1) with two outs to put the Dodgers up for good. Los Angeles had squandered a 7-4 lead in the eighth when Kevin Plawecki hit a tying three-run shot.

Indians 12, Tigers 2

In Cleveland, Edwin Encarnacion hit an eighth-inning grand slam, helping the Indians to their season-high seventh straight win.

Francisco Lindor, Jose Ramirez and Jason Kipnis also connected for Cleveland, which outscored Detroit 26-3 in the three-game sweep. Ramirez finished with three hits, extending his streak of reaching base to 31 consecutive games.

Red Sox 5, Mariners 0

In Boston, Chris Sale struck out 13 over seven dazzling innings and Mitch Moreland hit a two-run homer, leading Boston to the victory.

Sale (7-4) gave up four hits and walked one. Joe Kelly and Matt Barnes each pitched an inning to complete the four-hitter.

Reds 8, Cubs 6

In Cincinnati, pitcher Michael Lorenzen and Jesse Winker connected for pinch-hit homers in Cincinnati's seven-run seventh inning, sending the Reds to their seventh straight victory.

Lorenzen's homer was the third of his career and second in two games by a Reds pitcher. Anthony DeSclafani hit a grand slam on Saturday.

Rays 7, Yankees 6, 12 innings

In St. Petersburg, rookie Jake Bauers led off the 12th inning with a home run, finishing off Tampa Bay's three-game sweep.

The Yankees also lost catcher Gary Sanchez when he pulled up while running out a double-play grounder in the 10th. Manager Aaron Boone said Sanchez hurt his right groin/hip abductor and is probably headed for the disabled list.

Braves 7, Orioles 3

In Atlanta, Freddie Freeman hit a two-run single in the first, pinch-hitter Dansby Swanson belted a two-run homer in the eighth and the Braves earned their first win over the Orioles in six years.

Baltimore won the first two games of the series and swept the last set between the teams in 2015.

Diamondbacks 3, Pirates 0

In Pittsburgh, Clay Buchholz pitched five solid innings before leaving with an injury, and the Diamondbacks completed a four-game sweep of the Pirates.

Buchholz (2-1) retired his first 11 batters before Starling Marte doubled down the right-field line with two out in the fourth inning. Despite throwing just 53 pitches, he was pulled after experiencing tightness in his left side.

Cardinals 8, Brewers 2

In Milwauke, Luke Weaver won for the first time in eight starts and Jose Martinez hit a three-run homer for St. Louis.

Weaver (4-6) allowed two runs, both in the first, and five hits in 5 2/3 innings. He struck out a season-high nine in his first victory since May 11.

Twins 2, Rangers 0

In Minneapolis, Jose Berrios struck out a career-best 12 in seven innings, and the Twins beat Bartolo Colon and the Rangers.

Eddie Rosario had two hits for Minnesota, which snapped a three-game losing streak. Bobby Wilson and Robbie Grossman each singled in a run.

Astros 11, Royals 3

In Houston, Yuli Gurriel hit a grand slam in Houston's eight-run second inning.

Gurriel finished with three hits as the AL West-leading Astros won for the 15th time in 17 games. Jose Altuve drove in two runs and scored twice, and Evan Gattis connected for a pinch-hit homer.

Marlins 8, Rockies 5

In Denver, Derek Dietrich homered for the third straight game and tied a career high with four hits, leading Miami to the victory.

Drew Rucinski (2-1) got the win in relief of Caleb Smith, who exited in the second inning with left shoulder tightness. Kyle Barraclough earned his seventh save.

Giants 3, Padres 2, 11 innings

In San Francisco, Hunter Pence hit a two-run double in the 11th inning, sending San Francisco to the win.

With one out and the bases loaded, Pence came up with the game-ending hit against Brad Hand (1-4).

Blue Jays 7, Angels 6, 10 innings

In Anaheim, Kendrys Morales connected for a pinch-hit homer in the 10th inning, lifting Toronto to the win.

Morales hit a two-out drive to right off Hansel Robles for his eighth homer. Robles (2-3) was making his Angels debut after he was claimed off waivers from the New York Mets.

White Sox 10, Athletics 3

In Chicago, Yoan Moncada broke out of a slump with a three-run homer and six RBI, and the White Sox salvaged a split of the four-game series.

Daniel Palka and Yolmer Sanchez also connected for the White Sox, who had lost nine of 10.

Nationals 8, Phillies 6

In Washington, Daniel Murphy's single drove in the tying and go-ahead runs in the eighth inning and the Nationals rallied past the Philadelphia Phillies to salvage the finale of the three-game series.

Federer loses No. 1 ranking after finals defeat

HALLE, Germany (AP)—Borna Coric defeated defending champion Roger Federer 7-6 (6), 3-6, 6-2 to win the Gerry Weber Open final on Sunday.

The 21-year-old Croat saved three of the four break points he faced and took his second match point to end Federer's 20-match winning streak on grass for his second career title.

Coric, who defeated second-seeded Alexander Zverev in the first round, saved two set points in the first set tiebreaker.

''I was impressed with him,'' Federer said after only his third loss of the year. ''He was always a tick better in the end and he took his chances.''

Federer, who skipped the entire clay-court season for the second year in a row, had been going for his 99th title, one week after taking his 18th grass-court title in Stuttgart.

As a result of Federer's loss, Rafael Nadal will reclaim top spot in the ATP rankings on Monday.

Federer's defeat gave rise to a lengthy list of might-have-beens. He did not, after all, win a 10th title in Halle. He also remains two individual wins behind Jimmy Connors's all-time record of 174 on grass, although that discrepancy will presumably be addressed at Wimbledon in a week's time.

With a week's rest from competitive matches, Federer should be able to prepare his 36-year-old body for another tilt at his favorite title. He remains the deserved favorite to extend his own record by lifting a ninth Wimbledon crown, but he will need to be ruthless in the early stages if he wants to conserve energy for the second weekend.

While Federer and Novak Djokovic both finished as runners-up on Sunday, Andy Murray was in Eastbourne preparing for the Nature Valley International, only his second tournament since last year's Wimbledon.

Murray, who lost a demanding comeback match to Nick Kyrgios on Tuesday at the Fever Tree Championship, is on the schedule on Monday to face another major champion in Stan Wawrinka.

It is amazing to think that Murray and Wawrinka, now ranked No. 156 and No. 261 in the world, respectively, stood at No 1 and No 3 during last year's grass court season.

There is still some uncertainty over Murray's participation at Wimbledon, which he suggested last week was far from a done deal. But a smooth run out in the afternoon—in a match scheduled "not before 4pm"—should quell any remaining doubts.

In London, top seed Marin Cilic saved a match point before edging past Djokovic 5-7, 7-6(4), 6-3 to win his second Queen's Club Championships crown.

The Croatian, who last won the title in 2012, controlled the early exchanges from the baseline but missed six break point chances in the opening set, allowing Djokovic to battle back.

The 31-year-old Serb took his chances with a couple of crisp forehands in the 12th game to break the Cilic serve and claim the first set after an hour long battle.

AP
Roger Federer returns the ball to Boran Coric during the final match at the Gerry Weber Open ATP tennis tournament in Halle, Germany, Sunday, June 24, 2018.

US Open will consider Serena pregnancy in seedings

NEW YORK—The US Open will start considering pregnancy situations when making seedings so players aren't penalized for starting families, US Tennis Association president Katrina Adams said in a New York Times report Saturday.

The change comes after criticism of French Open officials for how they handled the case of former world number one Serena Williams in her Grand Slam return last month after giving birth to a daughter last September.

"It's the right thing to do for these mothers that are coming back," Adams told the Times.

"We think it's a good message for our current female players and future players. It's OK to go out and be a woman and become a mother and then come back to your job and I think that's a bigger message."

While making no promises about where 23-time Grand Slam singles champion Williams might be seeded, Adams said the Open would "revise the seedings if pregnancy is a factor in the current rankings of a player."

That's the situation for Williams, who was not given a seeded spot by French Open officials. She withdrew with an injury before a scheduled fourth-round match with Maria Sharapova.

Williams, ranked 183rd, is a seven-time Wimbledon champion who will learn Wednesday whether or not she will be seeded for next month's Grand Slam grass showdown in England.

The WTA Tour does not have protected seedings for players who return from absences, although it offers protected rankings to enter up to eight events a year in such situations.

"I get it. I would not want to be the number 32 player in the world who has worked hard in the last year to obtain this ranking," said Adams, herself a former player.

"But we're a Grand Slam and we have the right and the opportunity to seed the players according to what we feel is justified."

Dirk to Doncic: Mavs tap brakes on inevitable comparisons

DALLAS (AP)—Luka Doncic didn't get compared to Larry Bird when he was introduced a day after the Dallas Mavericks traded up to get the third overall pick in the NBA draft.

For president of basketball operations Donnie Nelson, that's progress based on his last experience of getting a tender-aged European in hopes of lifting the Mavericks out of the doldrums.

Twenty years later, Dirk Nowitzki is the highest-scoring foreign-born player in league history. Back then, the big German wasn't remotely comparable to Larry Legend—and his rough first two years proved it.

So ask Nelson about a player the Mavericks clearly coveted heading into the draft in Doncic, and he'll choose his words carefully regarding the 19-year-old from Slovenia. Doncic won't turn 20 until after the All-Star break of his rookie season, which is expected to be Nowitzki's record 21st with one franchise.

"Dirk and I had a long talk coming in," Nelson said about the player Dallas drafted days after his 20th birthday in 1998.

"We're obviously very excited to have (Doncic) but he's got a very tough road ahead of him. Dirk wasn't done any favors in his first two years. We are going to steer away from any of those comparisons. Luka is his own guy. He's got his own challenges."

Coach Rick Carlisle dropped a few international names in trying to describe the versatility Dallas thinks is offered by the 6-foot-7 Doncic, who won Euroleague MVP and Final Four MVP honors while helping Real Madrid win the title just days before the draft.

After offering comparisons to the late Drazen Petrovic, three-time champion Toni Kukoc and longtime San Antonio star Manu Ginobili, Carlisle stopped.

"I really feel it's important that we shouldn't try to compare this guy to anybody," Carlisle said Friday during an introductory news conference that included Doncic and second-round pick Jalen Brunson, who won two NCAA titles in three years at Villanova. "Let him be himself. Let his game takes its own form."

Doncic figures to shape the future of the Mavericks in some form with Dallas coming off consecutive losing seasons for the first time since the second of Nowitzki's two difficult years at the start of his career.

Those 1990s-era Mavericks had 10 straight losing seasons. Combine the drafting of Doncic with last year's ninth overall pick in point guard Dennis Smith Jr. and a still-young leading scorer in Harrison Barnes, and Carlisle expects the losing to stop soon, if not this coming season.

"Last night was symbolic to me that it was kind of a defining moment in this rebuild," said Carlisle, who had just one losing season as a coach before the current Dallas slide. "We're going propel forward with the idea that we've got to start winning games."

Just as he did last year with Smith, Carlisle is declaring Doncic a starter, which means the opening night lineup will have a teenager for the second straight year. Youth partly explains a two-year record of 57-107, including the 24-58 mark last season that landed Dallas the fifth pick before the draft-night trade with Atlanta on Thursday.

Another explanation was an unusually large number of undrafted players, including a young German in Maxi Kleber who grew up watching his countryman become the 2007 MVP and 2011 NBA Finals MVP.

The Mavericks haven't won a playoff series since taking their only title in 2011, and have missed the postseason three of the past six seasons coming off a 12-year playoff streak. Doncic might only get one chance to get Dallas back on track with Nowitzki, the 13-time All-Star who has hinted that 40 is a nice round number as a retirement age.

If this is it for Nowitzki, Nelson sees a trio in Barnes, Smith and Doncic that reminds him of Michael Finley mentoring Nowitzki and point guard Steve Nash and helping the Mavericks end a 10-year playoff drought in 2001.

"Michael Finley was our Harrison Barnes back in the day," Nelson said. "We feel like we've got that here in a different form. There's just some really cool elements to this that take me back and remind me about what it was like 20 years ago when we were watching these young guys."

Just don't remind Nelson about the Nowitzki-Bird comparisons.

SBL suspends games for Micro Games

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The 2018 Saipan Baseball League has suspended matches in the regular season to give way to the CNMI Baseball Team's preparation for the Micronesian Games.

Games will resume once the national squad returns to Saipan from Yap, which will host the quadrennial meet from July 15 to 27. Players suiting up for the CNMI are from the teams participating in the league, which is on the final stage of the double-round robin elimination.

The Chalan Kanoa Bears lead the league with their 15-1 record and will need to win one of their two remaining matches to seal the pennant. The Bears got their 15th victory and seventh straight in the second round of the elimination after crushing the Blue Jays last week, 20-1, at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

The league-leaders scored even runs each in the fifth and seventh inning to set up the easy win. The Blue Jays posted their lone run at the bottom of the first inning before being shut down the rest of the way.

Kiku and A.J. Lizama paced the Bears, as they both went 4-for-5 at bat. Kiku scored five runs and had two RBIs, while A.J. made two runs and two RBIs.

In other results last week, the Mariners edged Titanium, 12-11.

Ton Tenorio made the game-winning hit with his single bringing James Fleming home at the bottom of the ninth inning.

Micro Games announces partnership with Coca-Cola, Foremost

The 2018 Micro Games Organizing Committee has announced their partnership with Coca-Cola Beverage Co. (Micronesia), Inc. and Foremost Foods, Inc. as the exclusive non-alcoholic beverage sponsor of the quadrennial event that will take place in Yap from July 15 to 27.

"We are very excited about the sponsorship of Coca-Cola and Foremost," said Liyon Sulog, CEO of the 2018 Micronesian Games. "Coca-Cola has been a worldwide partner of the International Olympics for many years and, as such, its prominent presence in Yap will recognize the Micro Games as a leading regional sporting event."

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Marcos W. Fong, second left, CEO of Coca-Cola Beverages Co. (Guam), Inc. and Foremost Foods, Inc. and Liyon Sulog, third right, CEO of the 2018 Micronesian Games seal the beverage partnership between Coca-Cola and Foremost and the 2018 Micronesian Games with a handshake at the Coke and Foremost corporate headquarters in Barrigada Heights, Guam.

Coca-Cola and Foremost CEO Marcos W. Fong emphasized the commitment of the companies to the Micronesian islands.

"Our investment in the Micro Games underscores our commitment to Micronesia and the spirit of the Games' goal of 'developing sport for the benefit of the people, the nations and the territories of the Micronesian community.' In addition to Coca-Cola being the official beverage partner, we are pleased to provide Powerade as the official sports drink and Foremost Quench as the official water of the 2018 Micro Games," Fong said. ***(PR)***

FAMILIAR

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Flores in the podium were Ron Benavente and Alex Tudela, who posted net scores of 70 and 70.40, respectively.

More than 100 registered for the inaugural tournament and proceeds from last weekend's competition will be donated to Make A Wish Foundation, Micronesia Islands Nature Alliance, and Autism Society of the CNMI.

"We would like to give something back to the community so we thought about organizing an event and donating its proceeds to non-profit organizations in the CNMI," Oehlerking said in a brief message during the awards ceremony.

"We will be doing this tournament every year and hopefully make it one of the premier competitions here. We will definitely have a bigger and better tournament next year," Cook added.

FALCONS

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Arby Yaguel, who first tagged out runner Josenio Alvarez before throwing to first baseman Melan Sablan for the second out (on J.P. Celis). Maratita then struck out Froilan Camacho in the ensuing play to end the pivotal inning and leave Tom Agulto stranded at third.

The Falcons continued on to play solid defense in the last four innings to frustrate the Braves. Maratita got his second strikeout at the bottom of the fourth and left two Braves runners stuck at first and second, while the Falcons outfielders Joel Norita and Crusito Pangelinan caught fly balls for the two other outs.

In the fifth inning, the Braves went down quick with the first and third batters forced to a 5-3 and 6-3 putout plays, while Maratita fanned the second batter. The Falcons closer followed it up with back-to-back strikeouts on the Braves batters to start the bottom of the sixth and then caught a fly ball from Vicente Camacho to keep Leveque Iguel and Tyrese Camacho at third and first base. Tyrese singled, while Iguel was hit by a pitch and stole second and third before failing to reach home due to Maratita's defense.

Another 1-2-3 inning at the bottom of the seventh—Alvares and Agulto flying out at right and center field, respectively, and Sean Rabauliman going out on a 4-3 play— ended the Braves' bid for a pair of championships this season. The Braves won the pennant after finishing the regular season with a 9-3 record, just one win ahead of the Falcons.

The Falcons, however, had the final say after winning last weekend's title match. The victory over the Braves also averted a Falcons shutout this season, as the group's teams in the Majors and Junior League earlier lost in their championship games.

The Falcons got off to a slow start in the finals, making only one run in the first two innings off Maratita's RBI single at the top of the first inning. The Braves, on the other hand made two runs at the bottom of the first—off Alvarez's RBI single and Vicente Camacho's RBI double.

Neither team hit the board in the second inning before the Falcons registered four runs at the top of the third to steal the lead, 5-2. Again, Maratita scored an RBI with his single bringing leadoff batter Aven Evangelista home, while the Falcons' three other runs were off an RBI walk and the Braves' pair of errors.

The Braves then countered with only two runs at the bottom of third to still trail. Both runs were unearned with Tyrese Camacho reaching off a Falcons defensive booboo and Vicente Camacho scoring off a passed ball. Vicente's run turned out to be the last for the Braves, while the Falcons added two more—off an RBI walk from Pangelinan in the fourth and Evangelista's run from a Braves' miscue—to keep their safe distance en route to the finals win.

Evangelista collected three runs off a 2-for-4 performance at the plate, while Maratita was 2-for-3 and chipped in one run besides his two RBIs. Norita was also 2-for-3 and contributed two runs. Kavika Fernandez delivered the other run—at the top of the third off the Braves' error—for the Falcons.

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GROUP B

Morocco has been eliminated, leaving Portugal and Spain (4 points each) and Iran (three) to compete for two spots. Spain plays Morocco on Tuesday, when Portugal meets Iran.

GROUP C

France have advanced and lead with six points. Denmark is second with four after a 1-1 draw against Australia, who have one point.

Peru have been eliminated. Denmark play France on Wednesday, when Australia take on Peru.

GROUP D

Croatia has secured a trip to the second round and top the group with six points.

Nigeria (3 points) will advance with a win over Argentina (one point) on Wednesday, when Iceland play Croatia.

But Iceland (1 point) or the last-place Argentines could survive with a win and a Nigeria loss or tie, depending on goal difference.

GROUP E

Brazil and Switzerland have four points apiece, Serbia have three, and any of them could grab one of the group's two spots in the knockout stage.

Serbia meet Brazil on Thursday, likely needing a win. Switzerland play Costa Rica at the same time. Costa Rica have been eliminated.

GROUP F

Mexico avoided a let-down Sunday after upsetting Germany to start the tournament, handling South Korea.

But Mexico (6 points) aren't safe yet.

A dagger by Toni Kroos deep into extra time gave Germany (3 points) a 2-1 win over Sweden (3 points) in Sunday's late game.

If the defending champions beat South Korea on Thursday and Sweden simultaneously defeat Mexico, three teams would finish with six points, sending it to tiebreakers.

On the other hand, if Mexico and South Korea win, Mexico would win the group and every other team would be tied.

GROUP G

England and Belgium have already qualified for the round of 16 but meet on Thursday to see who tops the group.

There's been some discussion about whether that's an advantage or not, with Brazil or Germany potentially layingin wait in the quarters.

After proving uncompetitive, Panama and Tunisia look for their first points when they meet.

GROUP H

A 2-2 draw left Japan and Senegal tied atop the group with four points. They both only need a draw from their respective final games—against Poland and Colombia. Colombia will progress if it defeats Senegal.

Japan 2, Senegal 2

Keisuke Honda sat on the bench for 72 minutes, knowing a goal would make him the first Japanese player to score at three World Cups.

Six minutes later, it was a done deal.

The former AC Milan forward scored in the 78th minute, knocking the ball past two defenders standing on the goal line, to give Japan a 2-2 draw with Senegal on Sunday at the World Cup.

The 32-year-old Honda also scored at the 2010 and 2014 World Cups. He has 37 international goals in his career.

"I believe I used substitutions very well in looking back," said Japan coach Akira Nishino, who took over shortly before the tournament started. "Honda was moved from center to the wide side and he was very versatile at adapting to that position.

"We really wanted to win, we wanted to equalize and also take the lead even though there was only a short period of time left."

Sadio Mane gave Senegal the lead in the 11th minute with his first World Cup goal.

The Liverpool forward tapped the ball into the net after goalkeeper Eiji Kawashima was unable to control a shot from Youssouf Sabaly.

"The ball touched my foot and went into the net," Mane said. "It was really just the foot on the ball."

Japan struck back in the 34th minute when Takashi Inui scored with Japan's first shot on goal, but Moussa Wague restored the lead with a shot high into the net in the 71st.

A minute later, Nishino sent on Honda and striker Shinji Okazaki.

Senegal outshot Japan 14-7 and had five shots on target. Japan had only two.

"Frankly speaking, I think we are a bit disappointed," Mane said. And that's normal because there was a way to win this match."

Aliou Cisse, the coach of Senegal and the captain of the 2002 team that reached the quarterfinals, said his team needs to be more aggressive.

"We need to have more concentration and be more rigorous," Cisse said. "We didn't lose today. We didn't play a great game, but we didn't lose."

Colombia 3, Poland 0

Four years after Radamel Falcao was supposed to lead Colombia at the World Cup, he's doing just that.

Falcao missed the tournament in Brazil with a knee injury and had to wait until arriving in Russia to score his first World Cup goal. It came in Colombia's 3-0 victory over Poland on Sunday.

"It's a dream goal," Falcao said. "I'm happy for the victory, for the team's performance and the goal that I scored, which I've been waiting for for many years."

The victory kept Colombia in the running for a spot in the round of 16 and knocked out Poland, the first European country to be eliminated.

Falcao, Colombia's all-time leading scorer with 30 goals, made sure he would stay healthy for this year's World Cup by sitting out several matches with his Monaco club this season.

So far, so good.

"We always hope that he can score and hope that he can be fit as he was today, and we want to help him," Colombia coach Jose Pekerman said. "I think the fact that he scored was very important, not just for today but for the matches to come.

CNMI Women's U16 vs Quality Distributors

PHOTOS By GUAM FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION PHOTOS

The CNMI Women's U16 National Team's starting 11 pose for a photo before their friendly game against Quality Distributors at the Guam Football Association Training Centre in Harmon early this month.

The CNMI's Sharmaine Francisco, right, slides to deflect the ball.

The CNMI's Katrina Costales, center, tries to steal the ball from a Quality Distributors player.

The CNMI's Khristelle Itaas, left, uses her body to protect the ball from a Quality Distributors player.

The CNMI's Paulyn Joyce, right, attempts a header.

Three CNMI players chase a Quality Distributors player.

The CNMI's Emalyn Aniana, right, beats a Quality Distributors player to the ball.

CNMI team captain Julieanne Hall, right, shakes hands with her counterpart in Guam before the start of their friendly match.

Watson shoots 63 to rally for 3rd Travelers title

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AP
Senegal's Kalidou Koulibaly, top, vies for the ball with Japan's Shinji Kagawa during the group H match at the 2018 soccer World Cup at the Yekaterinburg Arena in Yekaterinburg , Russia, Sunday, June 24, 2018.

Who's in and out at World Cup

RUSSIA (AP)—With one match left for each team in group play at the World Cup, just two of the eight groups have been decided, and even those could come down to tiebreakers to determine who gets the stronger seed in the knockout stage. If two or more teams wind up tied on points, here's how FIFA decides (in order) who finishes where:

Best goal differential; most goals scored; points from head-to-head games between the teams involved; if more than two teams are tied, best goal differential from matches between the teams involved; most goals scored in all matches between the teams concerned; fewest points deducted based on yellow and red cards received in all group matches, as follows: a 1-point deduction for a yellow card, a 3-point deduction for a red card issued as a result of a second yellow, a 4-point deduction for a straight red, and a 5-point deduction for a straight red issued after a yellow card; and drawing of lots by FIFA."

The only time FIFA has ever drawn lots to break a tie in a group was at the 1990 edition in Italy, when Ireland and the Netherlands tied for second place in their group. The Netherlands wound up third, but both teams had already advanced under the 24-team format in place at the time.

GROUP A

Russia and Uruguay have clinched berths in the Round of 16, and play each other Tuesday (AEST) to determine who wins the group. Egypt and Saudi Arabia have been eliminated.

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3-peat for Falcons

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Falcons leadoff batter Aven Evangelista is all set to swing during the top of the first inning of their title game against the Braves in the Senior League division of the 2018 Saipan Little League Baseball last Sunday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The Talaabwogh Falcons soared past the NSA Braves, 7-4, in the finals of the Senior League division of the 2018 Saipan Little League Baseball last Sunday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

Relief pitcher Pedro Maratita shut down the Braves in the last 4.5 innings and gave up only three hits to help the Falcons notch the division crown—the team's third straight.

Maratita took over the pitching duties from Jericho Jones with the Falcons ahead by only two, 6-4, at the bottom of the third inning with no outs. Maratita then struggled early in the mound, hitting two batters by pitch, while the Braves loaded the bases to threaten the Falcons.

However, a big defensive stop—a double play at home and first base—saved the day for the Falcons. Maratita's pitch was fielded by catcher

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Familiar faces top Marianas Classic

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Perennial golf tournament winners lived up to high expectations after emerging as top finishers in the 2018 Marianas Classic held on the east course of the Laolao Bay Golf & Resort last Saturday.

Ryan Kim, who ruled the Championship Flight of last month's Governor's Tournament of Champions, returned to the Kagman facility and tamed the 18-hole course with his 4-under par 68 to take the place first honors in the Low Gross category of the tournament organized by IT&E, IP&E, and Bank of Guam. Kim won by three strokes against CNMI junior golfer Edward Lee (one-under par 71), while veteran Freddie Cataluna rounded out the Top 3 after shooting a 2-over par 74. Cataluna won in a playoff (hole No. 17) against Jun Hun Park.

Kim, Lee, and Cataluna received trophies and cash prizes during the awards presentation hosted by IT&E's Hans Mickelson and attended by IT&E chief executive officer James Oehlerking, Bank of Guam's chief executive officer Joaquin Cook, IP&E managing director Brian Bamba, and other officials of the three companies.

In the women's Low Gross, another familiar face won the top honors with Yuko Togawa beating six other female players. Togawa fired a 6-over par 78 to finish ahead of Yoo Chang Hee (79), Sunny Hyun (82), Jeon Me Ae (83), Yoon Seo Ja (86), Ahn Young He (110), and Jaime Pangelinan (112).

In the men's Low Net, Frederico Flores placed first after scoring 69.60. He had an 8.4 handicap and registered a gross score of 78. Joining

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
From left, 2018 Marianas Classic awards ceremony host and IT&E's Hans Mickelson, Freddie Cataluna, Edward Lee, and Ryan Kim pose for a photo after the presentation of prizes and trophies last Saturday at the Laolao Bay Golf & Resort.